

DRAFT

Procedure for Proper Disposal of Animal Carcasses

Purpose

This procedure provides guidance for the disposal of animal carcasses generated on campus, both contaminated and uncontaminated.

If you have additional questions contact Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S).

Responsibility

Faculty: The faculty involved in research and instructional activities involving the use of animals are responsible for the proper disposal of animal carcasses.

EH&S: is responsible for coordinating, collection and disposal of animal carcasses identified as possibly biohazardous.

Definitions

Biohazardous: Infectious agents or hazardous biological materials that present a risk or potential risk to the health of humans, animals or to the environment. The risk can be direct through infection or indirect through damage to the environment. This includes animal blood, body fluids, tissues, carcasses, bedding, and other waste that contain organisms or agents not usual to the normal animal environment AND that are pathogenic or hazardous to humans

Bio-box: corrugated boxes provided by the vendor with the universal biohazardous warning label printed on the sides of the box.

Contaminated: Direct contact with a biohazardous agent.

Uncontaminated: Any item that has not had direct exposure to a biohazardous material, or that has had only incidental exposure consistent with Section B(c).

Disposal

Uncontaminated Animal Carcasses: If the condition of the carcasses does not meet the definition of biohazardous as described above, package the carcass in air-tight, opaque plastic bags. The carcasses should be frozen in a freezer utilized solely for carcass storage, and must be discarded in the normal trash.

Contaminated Animal Carcasses: Contaminated animal waste, including potentially infectious animal carcasses and cage bedding must be contained in leak proof, biohazard-labeled red bags within disposable, Bio-boxes to ensure that no discharge or release of waste occurs and reduces the possibility of odor. The Bio-box and bags may be obtained from EH&S. Boxed animal carcasses are transferred to the University's biohazardous waste vendor for shipment to an incineration facility.

Exception: Animal carcasses used in instructional laboratories for an anatomy class in the Biology Department are collected and bagged in durable opaque plastic bags. These carcasses are placed in a Bio-box and shipped via the University's waste vendor.