

DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK CARCASSES

These notes are for guidance only and should not be taken as a full legal interpretation of legislation.

The disposal of animal carcasses on farm can present significant dangers. Apart from risking prosecution for causing water pollution, there is a risk of spreading disease to stock on that holding or on neighbouring farms as well as a public health risk.

Sudden death of any animal

Any sudden unexplained death should be considered as a suspect Anthrax and should be reported immediately to the Divisional Veterinary Manager, [Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency](#) (AHVLA) – Inverness 01463 728800, Perth 01738 602211, Ayr 01292 291350.

Deaths of cattle

The owner or keeper of **ALL** cattle over 48 months which die or are killed (other than for the control of notifiable diseases) must make arrangements for them to be taken to an approved BSE sampling site. For information on sites approved to test for TSEs contact AHVLA.

Deaths of goats

The owner or keeper of **ALL** goats over 18 months old which die or are killed (other than for control of notifiable diseases) should be reported to the TSE Surveillance Helpline service (Tel: 0800 525890) who will arrange to collect the carcasses (free of charge) and arrange for testing for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).

All other livestock deaths

The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (& Regulation EC No. 1069/2009 & EU 142/2011) stipulates that disposal should be either by incineration, rendering or other approved means (if appropriate). Only in designated remote areas¹ **and where no other accepted means of disposal are available** should burial or burning on-farm be considered. [SEPA](#) should be consulted prior to any carcasses being buried or burnt on-farm and the following guidance should be adhered to:-

DOs	DON'Ts
<p>Report all sudden deaths and seek veterinary advice.</p> <p>Comply with the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and attempt to use an incinerator or rendering plant before considering burial on farm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave carcasses unburied or open to dog or fox access for any length of time. • Add lime to a lined disposal pit. • Dump carcasses in remote areas. <p>Operate an animal carcass incinerator</p>

¹ For Argyll and Bute Council, the areas are Oban Lorn and the Isles, Mid Argyll Kintyre and Islay and Bute and Cowal are classed as Remote. Helensburgh and Lomond is NOT a remote area. If clarification is required please contact Animal Health

<p>Bury animal carcasses with at least 1 metre of covering soil to prevent dogs, foxes or vermin getting access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a Location Plan of all burials and a record of type of animal buried and date. • Consult SEPA for confirmation that the proposed site is suitable for carcass burial. 	<p>without prior consultation with SEPA.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose sites where there is at least one metre of subsoil at the bottom of the burial pit. • Make sure that incineration is carried out at the highest temperature possible. • Make sure that burning of carcasses in the open is undertaken with care and by the approved method. • Seek professional advice if in doubt. Advice on veterinary issues is available from your local Animal Health office. SEPA will provide advice on environmental pollution issues. 	<p>DON'T</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury carcasses any closer than 250m from any drinking water supply; 50m from any watercourse or 10m from any filled drain. • Locate burial pits in areas prone to water logging or at risk of flooding or that are underlain by sandy or gravelly soil. • Bury carcasses in polythene bags or other impervious material. • Bury carcasses on archaeological sites or on sites designated for their nature conservation interest.

Records must be kept for 2 years as follows:-

- a. Where transporting or consigning to Render/Incinerator/knackery etc.
 - Date material moved (consignor and transporter only)
 - Description of material (including ear ID if applicable), and category
 - Quantity of material (volume, weight or number)
 - Place of origin (transporter only)
 - Name and address of carrier (consignor only)
 - Name and address of receiver and approval number (consignor, if knows, and transporter)
 - If appropriate – approval number of plant of origin

- b. Where on-site burial or burning
 - Quantity, category and species of animal by-product
 - Date and place of burial or burning

For further information contact your local Animal Health office or telephone 01546 604131 or email animalhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk