

ACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL METHODS

Carcasses of animals must be disposed of within 24 hours of knowledge of death. Acceptable methods of disposal are **rendering, composting, depositing in a permitted sanitary landfill, incineration by an approved method and burying on-site.**

Composting of dead animals shall be done in a composter designed and constructed according to recommendations outlined by the University of Missouri Extension.

Disposal is allowed in a **sanitary landfill** that has a current permit under provisions of Chapter 260, RSMo, and any regulations promulgated thereunder. This allowance is based on the landfill's acceptance of dead animals prior to hauling.

Commercial incineration shall be done in an incinerator designed, constructed and operated in accordance with provisions of Chapter 643, RSMo, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

Noncommercial incineration shall be done in an incinerator designed, constructed and operated in an efficient manner as recommended by the University of Missouri Extension.

In emergency situations involving a risk to the health and welfare of any species of animal or man, or where the death of an animal has caused a nuisance, the state veterinarian may apply, in the county where the dead animal was found, for a court order requiring the person who owned, cared for, or most recently possessed the dead animal, to dispose of it.



Animal Health Division

P.O. Box 630
1616 Missouri Blvd.
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 751-3377

Agriculture.Mo.Gov

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Missouri Geological Survey
Environmental Geology Section
Phone: (573) 368-2100

University Of Missouri Extension

Whitten Hall
506 Hitt St
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: (573) 882-7477

DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS IN MISSOURI

Law and Proper Methods
269.020 RSMo





BURYING ON-SITE

On-site burial of dead animals shall be in accordance with the following loading limitations, geographic restrictions and other conditions.

For areas defined by the Department of Natural Resources Missouri Geological Survey as having major groundwater contamination potential, the maximum loading rate shall be limited to:

- One bovine, six swine, seven sheep, 300 poultry carcasses or 70 turkey carcasses on any given acre per year.
- All other species and immature animals shall be limited to 1,000 pounds on any given acre per year.

Burial in areas with minor potential for groundwater contamination shall be limited to:

- seven cattle, 44 swine, 47 sheep, 400 turkey carcasses and 2,000 poultry carcasses.
- All other species and immature animal shall be limited to 7,000 pounds on any given acre per year.

Carcasses shall not be placed on the ground, in a ditch, at the base of a hill, in a cavern, or in areas prone to flooding.

Burial pits must be less than six feet deep. Dead animals must be covered immediately with six inches or more of soil, with a final cover of 30 inches of soil or more. Burial site location must be at least:

- 300 feet from wells, public water supplies, springs or sinkholes.
- 50 feet from adjacent property.
- 300 feet from existing residences.
- 100 feet from streams, lakes and ponds.

If the carcass weighs more than 150 pounds, the abdominal cavity must be punctured before burial.

Any person owning or controlling a dead animal that did not die of a contagious disease may remove the hide before disposing of the animal carcass.

Property Capacity

The maximum amount of land that can be used for on-site burial each year shall be limited to 10 percent of the total land owned or one acre, whichever is greater.

EXCEPTIONS TO THIS LAW

Hauling dead animals to slaughter establishments for personal consumption.

Transporting, disposing of, or selling the hides or skins of animals, or tanning such hides or skins for themselves or other persons.

For a government agency, responding to an emergency situation, or collecting, transporting or disposing of the bodies approved by the state veterinarian.

Transporting dead animals to a rendering plant or substation, to a diagnostic facility, or to an on-farm disposal site.

Lawfully operating a pet cemetery.

Research facilities regulated by the Animal Welfare Act.

RENDERING FACILITY PERMITS

Rendering facility permits provided by this law shall be granted only to those persons or corporations who are competent to operate or maintain a dead animal transportation service or dead animal substation in such a manner as to safeguard public interests and who have shown proof that all requirements imposed by this statute are met.



Questions?

For more information, contact us at (573) 751-3377 or visit Agriculture.Mo.Gov.