

Good Practice Guide to Handling Veterinary Waste

The management of animal healthcare waste is an essential part of ensuring that animal healthcare waste activities do not pose a risk or potential risk of infection and are securely managed. This guidance provides a framework for best practice waste management in order to assist Veterinary Practices to meet legislative requirements in England and Wales. It is the right and responsibility of the waste producer to classify and segregate their waste.

All businesses have a duty of care to ensure that:

- All waste is stored and disposed of responsibly. Mixing of different types of hazardous waste is not permitted
- All waste is only handled or dealt with by those authorised to do so
- All waste containers/bags are labelled with the Practice name, post code and relevant European Waste Catalogue Code (EWC code)
- Appropriate records are kept of all waste that is transferred or received for three years

Hazardous Waste

- Registration of Premises (registration of premises is only applicable to Wales). Further information can be found at www.naturalresources.wales
- Keep a waste register. A Consignment Note is required to move/transfer Hazardous waste

Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Waste

Waste contaminated with cytotoxic or cytostatic pharmaceuticals that are toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction. **To include:**

- Chemotherapy treatments such as Vincristine, Endoxana.
- Hormonal preparations such as Oxytocin, Alizin, Delvosteron
- Antiviral medicines such as Acyclovir, Interferon
- Cyclosporine such as Atopica, Optimmune
- Some topical products such as Chloramphenicol, Carbamizole

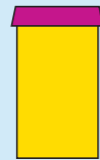
Waste products include:

- Out of date, unused medicines, products and contaminated packaging
- Glass bottles & vials
- Needles, syringes & infusion sets
- PPE including gloves, masks, aprons & clothing
- Animal bedding and faeces

DISPOSAL

- Segregate into appropriate purple lidded containers
- High temperature incineration
- EWC code = 18.02.07

PCS offer environmentally sustainable bin options – please ask the crematorium for further details.



Infectious Waste

Waste containing viable micro-organisms or their toxins in which are known or reliably believed to cause disease in animals, humans or the environment.

OR waste which following a comprehensive veterinary assessment is considered to present a risk of infection to any other animal, person that may come into contact with it, or the environment.

This may include:

- Waste contaminated with blood and other body fluids & faeces. (For example, swabs, dressings, animal bedding, clothing, masks, and gloves)
- Waste from isolation wards
- Laboratory Waste – Microbiological cultures, stocks and snap tests

DISPOSAL

All infectious material can be segregated into appropriate yellow containers/bags for high-temperature incineration

OR

Infectious waste can be further segregated into orange bags/containers for pre-treatment as best practice.

- EWC code = 18.02.02



Photographic Chemicals

- Fixer and Developer

DISPOSAL

Segregate into leak-proof containers for treatment/disposal at appropriately licensed facility.

- Fixer EWC code = 09.01.04
- Developer EWC code = 09.01.01



Hazardous Chemicals and Reagents

This may include:

- Formalin, Formaldehyde and Sodalime

Waste chemicals should not be placed in clinical, offensive, pharmaceutical or municipal waste streams (such mixing is prohibited in England and Wales). They should be segregated and packaged according to transport classification and chemical compatibilities (appendix C of the WM3 guidance provides comprehensive guidance on the classification of waste in each of the hazard groups).

Reference should be made to the manufacturers safety data sheet (SDS) for product information, hazardous properties, for any special handling and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) recommendations as well as disposal requirements.

For chemical disposal enquiries please contact your PCS crematorium for guidance.

DISPOSAL

- Segregate into UN approved leak-proof hazardous chemical containers (white with red screw top lid) displaying relevant hazardous property labels and symbols (supplied by PCS) as defined on product Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
- EWC code = 18.02.05



Anatomical Waste

Anatomical waste is always considered as a potential infectious waste.

It is not a requirement to further segregate infectious from non-infectious anatomical waste.

This may include:

- Recognisable body parts (limbs and organs)
- Animal tissue waste
- Teeth & bone segments
- Blood bags

DISPOSAL

- High temperature incineration
- EWC code = 18.02.02



Anatomical Waste Preserved in Chemicals

This may include:

- Pathology specimens and samples
- Identifiable body parts e.g limbs and organs

Please contact your PCS crematorium for guidance

DISPOSAL

Reference should be made to the manufacturers safety data sheet (SDS) for chemical information, hazardous properties, for any special handling and personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations as well as disposal requirements.

- Segregate into UN approved leak-proof hazardous chemical containers (white with red screw top lid) displaying relevant hazardous property labels and symbols (supplied by PCS) as defined on the Manufacturers Safety Data Sheet. (SDS)
- EWC code 18.02.02 and 18.02.05



Sharps Waste

All sharps contaminated with pharmaceuticals or animal blood (not including cytotoxic or cytostatic sharps).

This may include:

- Hypodermic needles, scalpels and other blades, infusion sets

DISPOSAL

- All sharps to be segregated into yellow lidded sharp containers for high-temperature incineration
- EWC code = 18.02.02
- EWC code = 18.02.02 & 18.02.08

Note: Both EWC codes are required if the sharps waste contain both blood and pharmaceutically contaminated sharps.

