

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
- 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 two years

Non-Hazardous Waste

Offensive Waste

Waste that has been subjected to a detailed item and patient-specific assessment that clearly demonstrates:

- It does not present a risk of infection or other potential hazard to any animal, or person that may come into contact with it, or to the environment
- It is not clinical waste that requires incineration or other treatment prior to landfill
- It may cause offence to the senses or to those coming into contact with it
- It is not dangerous for carriage
- It does not contain body parts or body tissues
- It is not contaminated with a medicinal product

Items may include:

- Disposable veterinary items and equipment that do not pose a risk of infection including PPE
- Items used in treatment (for example swabs, masks & gloves)
- Animal faeces, cat litter & soiled animal bedding

DISPOSAL

- Landfill or other licensed permitted facility
- EWC code = 18.02.03



Pharmaceutical Waste (EXCLUDING Cytotoxic or Cytostatic Medicines)

This may include:

- Prescription only medicines (POM)
- Out-of-date medicines
- Denatured Controlled drugs (schedule 1 to 5)
- Fully discharged syringe bodies in the absence of the needle
- Contaminated glass bottles, vials, ampoules and packaging

T28 - EXEMPTION FOR CONTROLLED DRUGS

Sorting and denaturing of controlled drugs for disposal. The destruction and disposal of controlled drugs are subject to the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994. The Environment Agency has advised that they do not expect veterinary surgeries to hold a Waste Management Licence for the purpose of denaturing controlled drugs. Therefore veterinary practices are advised to apply for a T28 exemption certificate issued by the Environment Agency. Further information can be found at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

DISPOSAL OF CONTROLLED DRUGS

All controlled drugs must be denatured or made not readily recoverable which can be then disposed of with other pharmaceuticals (not including cytotoxic or cytostatic pharmaceuticals). Schedule 1 and 2 controlled drugs must be denatured prior to disposal in the presence of a licenced authorised witness. This can be a Controlled Drugs Liaison Officer responsible for your area, an authorised inspector with the VMD or a veterinary surgeon who is not associated with the practice. For schedule 3, 4 & 5 controlled drugs, denaturing does not need to be witnessed by an independent witness. (Further guidance can be found on the VMD website and PCS web portal - download section).

DISPOSAL OF OTHER PHARMACEUTICALS

- Segregate into leak-proof containers
- Avoid mixing
- Incineration at an appropriately licensed facility
- EWC code = 18.02.08



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

Non-Hazardous Chemicals and Reagents

Waste Chemicals and reagents should not be placed in clinical, offensive, pharmaceutical or municipal waste streams. They should be segregated and packaged according to transport classification and chemical compatibilities. Reference should be made to the manufacturers safety data sheet (SDS) for product information and disposal requirements.

If following assessment the chemical is deemed non-hazardous each product must be contained in a white rigid leak proof container with red lid assigning the EWC code of 18.02.06 indicating that the chemical is considered non-hazardous waste.

DISPOSAL

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



Xray Film

- Segregate into confidential waste bags. To be clearly marked "X-ray film" and the EWC code 09.01.07 by the practice

DISPOSAL

Please contact your PCS crematorium for further guidance.



Confidential Waste

- Confidential papers.
- EWC code = 20.01.01

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Metal objects such as ring binders, and suspension files
- Lever-arch files

DISPOSAL

Please contact your PCS crematorium for further guidance.



Domestic Waste

Waste that only contains domestic waste.

This may include:

- Unsoiled newspapers and magazines
- Food and drink containers
- Tin cans
- Paper towels from hand washing

DISPOSAL

- Recycling options should be considered where available as best practice
- Landfill or recycling at a suitably permitted or licensed site
- EWC code = 20.03.01 (mixed)

Note: Domestic Waste is not collected by PCS.



Fluororber Filter Canister

Fluororber canisters should not be disposed of in clinical, pharmaceutical, offensive or municipal waste streams.

Once the fluororber is exhausted, the canister is to be sealed using the original bag, clearly labelled with the practice name, address, and EWC code 15.02.03

DISPOSAL

- Incineration at an appropriately licensed facility