

Animal Wastes Operating Procedure

1. Scope

This policy applies to all The University of Queensland sites (where site-specific EMSs are not in place) and covers the following waste:

- Animal carcasses and parts thereof that are not classified as Clinical and Related waste or Cytotoxic Drugs and Related waste; or animal waste containing radioisotopes
- Used animal litter and foodstuffs; and
- Faeces from animal houses.

This policy **excludes** the following:

- Any of the above 'animal waste' that is in anyway contaminated with an infectious agent;
- Any waste not automatically reticulated to treatment ponds;
- Intensive livestock activities;
- Grazed or paddock animals;
- Licensed activities and/or animal waste that is subject to specific legal requirements and/or permits including wildlife;
- Clinical And Related Waste;
- Cytotoxic Drugs and Related Waste; and
- Human Cadavers.
- Waste containing radioactive material

2. Objectives

- Ensure that the Animal Wastes generated are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner;
- Protect human health and the environment from the effects of potentially harmful wastes; and
- Comply with legal requirements for treatment and disposal of Animal Waste.

3. Procedure

- Procedures at some campuses and sites are different. ***Please refer to site specific work instructions for collection times for disposal and other details for your campus or site.***
- Regardless of campus or site, the following measures must be taken for disposal of wastes.

3.1 *Collection for disposal*

- Where possible, Animal waste shall be placed in a green receptacle/bin with a light green lid with no splits or cracks and a fixed lid;
- The receptacle/bins will be marked as Animal waste;
- The receptacle/bins **will not** exceed 40kg in weight; and

IMPORTANT:

Please exclude the following non-compatible wastes from the Animal Waste bins:

- Sharps
- Disposable gloves
- Any types of plastic (e.g. plastic bags, plastic containers)
- Paper towelling
- Paper that is contaminated (e.g. blood and serum).

Please place in Clinical and Related Waste or other appropriate waste bins.

3.2 Storage

- Animal carcasses and parts thereof, must be kept refrigerated (eg dedicated area within a cold room) as required until the time of removal from site;
- Animal litter, foodstuffs and faeces must be stored in a cool environment;
- The waste shall be stored:
 - in a weather protected, well ventilated area;
 - in a secured area and not readily accessible by the general public; and
 - in such a manner as to present no threat to health, safety and the environment.
 - if possible and safe, stored until the School or Centre has a bin full.
- If not able to comply with the above requirements, disposed of as quickly as possible.

3.3 Transporters of Animal Waste

- Animal Waste will be collected and transported by:
 - A licensed contractor for the handling of this type of waste; or
 - A person or company who can demonstrate suitable knowledge and equipment to handle such waste.
- Transportation shall be in accordance with the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995.

3.4 Disposal and Treatment

- Only suitably licensed or approved facilities shall be used to treat this waste for disposal including rendering and composting.
- These facilities are licensed to only accept wastes that are **non** infected or uncontaminated.

3.5 Spills

- Every generator, transporter or handler of Animal Wastes shall hold equipment, and have staff who are trained to carry out clean up of spills of this waste. This will include all measures for containing, removing and disinfecting a spill area.
- Any material generated by responding to a spill should be handled as animal waste unless it is excluded, by its nature, by any part of this procedure.

4. Waste Process Responsibilities

Responsibility	Action
Students, Researchers, Laboratory technicians, Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Segregate the Animal Wastes from other wastes to avoid contamination;• Segregate non-compatible waste; and• Dispose of the wastes in the Animal Wastes wheelie bins/receptacles only.
Managers and Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that students and staff are trained in the Animal Wastes Operating Procedure.
Property and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide waste collection service;• Liaise with Heads of Schools and Centres, and Executive Officers to ensure that Animal Waste management is effectively carried out at University campuses; and• Review the waste management program at least every 3 years.

5. Definitions

5.1 Waste

Under section 13 of the *Environmental Protection Act, 1994* **waste** is described as “any gas, liquid, solid or energy, or a combination of them that is not considered a resource (as defined by

EPA (1994), and is surplus to, or unwanted from, any industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity, whether or not of value.”

5.2 Animal Waste

Animal Wastes refers to waste of a biological nature, which has the potential to cause harm by acting as an infectious agent, while under going decomposition. To prevent this occurring, Animal wastes are treated (i.e. by rendering or using incineration).

5.3 Animal Carcasses

Animal carcasses refers to the carcasses of domestic and laboratory animals including parts thereof that are not classified as Clinical and Related (Path) waste or Cytotoxic Drugs, waste containing radiation material and Related waste.

5.4 Carcass Limbs

Any limb which has been removed from the carcass.

5.5 Used Animal Litter and Foodstuffs

Animal litter and foodstuffs refers to left over or contaminated foodstuffs, sawdust from cages and all animal litter.

5.6 Faeces

Any faeces accumulated or faecal specimens used for testing.

5.7 Clinical Waste

Clinical Waste refers to any samples (eg. Tissue, venom, blood, serum, and swabs) that have been in contact with, or used in experiments with a pathological substance and includes pathological waste.

5.8 Infectious Agent

Means an organism, including a mirco-organism or worm, that causes disease or another adverse health impact in humans. (Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 Schedule 9)

6. References

- Environmental Protection Act 1994
- Health Act 1937
- Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy and Regulation 2000
- Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulations