

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE (AEC)

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FORM (For Domestic Fowl, Native Fauna/Wildlife, Domestic Livestock & Laboratory Animals)

Title of Procedure:

Guidelines for the disposal of dead animals and their parts (G2)

Animals Killed in the Course of Experiments

Where animals die due to a positively identifiable cause, i.e., as part of experimental procedure, and where such animals or their body parts are in no way contaminated e.g., with 'labelled' substances – radioisotopes, heavy metals etc., one of the following methods of carcass or part disposal must be used:

Incineration in the high temperature facility at the Invetus Health Research Pty Ltd, Armidale (located on the Northern Campus, Armidale) – see attached protocol

Or

- Placement in selected bins for removal by Armidale Dumaresq Council contractors as part of the UNE garbage service.
- The bins to be used are those located at the UNE Cart Facility located at the rear of WO73
- All biological material must be placed in leak proof and sealed opaque, heavy-duty plastic bags.
- It is essential that all users of these bins ensure that lids are closed at all times and particularly after bagged animals or animal parts are deposited therein.

NB: The Council contractors collect refuse from these bins daily Monday to Friday. Therefore your co-operation with respect to arranging the disposal of material to take best advantage of this service while minimising the discomfort and health dangers to the passing campus users would be greatly appreciated.

Where numbers of large animals, including small ruminants and anything larger, are being slaughtered and space in the garbage bins is unlikely to be sufficient researchers and their staff must make arrangements directly with the Armidale Dumaresq Councils Building and Health section (phone 6770 3600) for the disposal of the animals concerned. At least 2 days notice is required by Council.

- Where dead animals or their body parts are 'contaminated', e.g. with heavy metals or radioactive substances, there are certain Health & Safety requirements regarding their disposal.

Animals treated with radioactive substances must be appropriately labelled and held for the necessary length of time prior to slaughter and disposal.

In the case of animals treated with heavy metals it is recommended that they be buried.

Please note that according to the University of New England Administrative Handbook L2.1 all matters concerning the use of radioactive materials must be dealt with through or by the UNE Radiation Safety Officer. This encompasses all matters relating to the disposal of radiation-contaminated materials, including animal carcasses or animal parts. Therefore it is imperative that all workers organise for the disposal of contaminated carcasses with the UNE Radiation Officer and not directly with the Armidale Dumaresq Council.

Unexpected/Unexplained Animal Deaths

In the event that any animal(s) die unexpectedly, A Post-Mortem must be carried out to determine the cause of death. At the time of the finding of the dead animal or as soon as possible (within 24 hours) the Secretary of the AEC must be informed and an unexpected adverse event report must be completed. Once the unexpected adverse event report has been submitted a number will be allocated, which must be detailed in the Final Report submitted to the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) on completion of the experiment.

The carcass of animals autopsied by the Invetus Health Research Pty Ltd will be disposed of, in a suitable manner, by the Invetus Health Research Pty Ltd.

The following are important items to note or undertake in the case of an unexpected or unexplained animal death:

- An autopsy can be performed by any registered veterinary surgeon either on campus or in town.

On weekends researchers are to contact any of the local veterinary surgeons in town.

In the event that a deceased animal can not be taken to the Veterinary Laboratory immediately for post-mortem the following procedures (listed in order of preference) should be undertaken.

- Sections of organs, approximately 1cm x 2cm (or the entire organ if it is small) and including normal and any apparently abnormal tissue, should be cut out and placed in phosphate buffered 5% formalin (10% formalin will do temporarily).

Organs to be sampled include:

Liver, spleen, kidneys, lung, heart and any obvious abnormality (NB: a supply of formalin and suitable containers will be made accessible in Invetus);

Or

Remove organs (as listed in i.) or parts thereof and refrigerate them immediately. They can be preserved in this way for up to 24-36 hours depending on the degree of autolysis (rotting) at the time of removal from the carcass;

Or

Refrigerate the whole animal – depending on its size and available refrigerator space.

- A post-mortem is worthwhile up to 12-24 hours after death, depending on the ambient temperature – possibly longer under cold conditions.
- If the cause of death is obvious no post-mortem is necessary but the University's CART Manger and the AEC need to be notified and the occurrence must be recorded in the report submitted to the AEC at the conclusion of the experiment.
- Points b), c) and d) hold for all non-human vertebrate animals.

Disposal of Animal and Waste Material

The Invetus Pty Ltd has an incineration facility that can be used for disposal of carcasses and materials.

There are a few requirements that researchers will have to meet in order to use the facility.

- The CART Manger is to organise with Invetus that there will be material that will need incineration in advance so that Invetus can organise staff and facilities on the intended day.
- Notification of intention to dispose of material. This will enable arrangements to be made to store material or run the incinerator depending on the volume.
- Material must be in some form of bag to avoid spillage.
- Carcasses may be delivered whole, e.g. sheep. Small animals need to be in strong plastic bags.
- Disposal of contaminated material from research projects must meet UNE Occupational Health and Safety committee requirements. We would like to have their input regarding the disposal of 'contaminated' material and how it can best be achieved, particularly considering personnel who have to handle the animals/material, the ash after incineration and finally the safe disposal of the ash at the City tip.
- No explosive materials e.g., aerosol cans to be included in bags of material.
- Please notify the Invetus prior to unloading material/animals.

Charges per incineration is depending on the material that is needed to be incinerated.

Reviewed by: Mr Grahame Chaffey Manager CART UNE, 2019