



Disposal Options for Small Quantities of Dead Animals Technical Guidance Document SW-1994-G1

Dead animals comprise a small but identifiable portion of the solid waste generated in Kansas. This technical guidance document (TGD) outlines acceptable practices for the disposal of small quantities of dead animals. Disposal options for large quantities of dead animals are described in TGD SW-2001-G1.

Small quantity

A small quantity of dead animals is less than six animal units, based on the definition found in KSA 65-171d. An animal unit is approximately the equivalent of one cow or two pigs or five ducks.

Small vs. large animals

Acceptable disposal methods are determined in part by the size of the animal. Large animals include cattle, horses, and most other farm animals. Small animals typically include ducks, turkeys, chickens, and household pets. The options for disposal of small quantities of large and small animals follow, listed in order from most preferable to least preferable.

Large animals

1. Take the animal(s) to a commercial rendering facility;
2. Compost the animal(s) on the farm;
3. Direct-haul the animal(s) to a permitted municipal solid waste landfill;
4. Take the animal(s) to a local large animal veterinarian;
5. Bury the animal(s) on the farm.

Small animals

1. Take the animal(s) to a permitted municipal solid waste landfill.
2. Take the animal(s) to a local veterinarian.
3. Take the animal(s) to a pet cemetery or crematory.
4. Bury the animal(s) on-site.
5. Take the animal(s), with proper packaging, to a transfer station. Proper packaging would include placing each animal in a five-gallon plastic pail with a lid or in a doubled-up plastic trash sack.
6. Compost the animal(s) on-site.

On-site burial

The following guidelines should be followed when burying animals on site:

- Bury animals within 48 hours unless otherwise authorized.
- Add quick or slaked lime, if necessary, to control odors and discourage scavenging.
- Cover animals with a minimum of three feet of soil.

For additional information regarding the proper management of solid or hazardous waste in Kansas, you may visit the Bureau of Waste Management website at <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/> or contact the Bureau at: (785) 296-1600, bwm_web@kdheks.gov, or the address at the top of this document.