

WS Directive

2.515 05/18/11

DISPOSAL OF WILDLIFE CARCASSES

1. PURPOSE

To provide guidance to Wildlife Services (WS) personnel on the disposal of wildlife carcasses.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive revises WS Directive dated 07/30/03.

3. POLICY

All wildlife carcasses, whether whole or in part, will be disposed of in a manner consistent with Federal, State, county, and local regulations and WS Directive 2.210, Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations. Furs, animal parts, or edible meat may be donated, salvaged, sold or transferred in accordance with WS Directive 2.510, Fur, Other Animal Parts, and Edible Meat.

Carcass retrieval is often necessary for zoonotic disease management, ecological, environmental, scientific or public sensitivity purposes. In these instances, WS personnel will make a reasonable effort to retrieve and dispose of wildlife carcasses that result from WS' wildlife damage management activities.

If chemical euthanasia is used, WS personnel will comply with procedures outlined in the WS Field Operations Manual for the Use of Immobilization and Euthanizing Drugs and WS Directive 2.430, Controlled Chemical Immobilization and Euthanizing Agents. Animals euthanized with drugs that may pose secondary hazards to scavengers must be disposed of according to Federal, State, county, and local regulations, drug label instructions, or lacking such guidelines, by deep burial, incineration or at a landfill approved for such disposal. See WS Field Operations Manual for the Use of Immobilization and Euthanizing Drugs, June 2001 and WS Directive 2.505, Lethal Control of Animals for additional guidance.

Wildlife carcasses being transported or temporarily stored in a facility or vehicle should be covered or placed totally out-of-sight of the general public. Vehicles shall be kept clean of associated materials such as fur, feathers, blood, animal tissue or other parts to the extent practicable.

4. DISPOSAL

All disposals will be made in a manner consistent with Federal, State, county, and local regulations. Methods listed below are approved for disposal of wildlife carcasses, or parts thereof, unless otherwise prohibited.

a. Field Disposal and Burial. Wildlife carcasses may be discarded or buried on the property where they were killed or recovered, or deposited on another cooperator's property if approved by the respective property owner. Carcasses may be composted following appropriate Federal, state and local laws. All disposals will be made in a manner which demonstrates WS' recognition of public sensitivity to the viewing of wildlife carcasses.

b. Landfill Sites. Wildlife carcasses or parts may be disposed of at public or private landfills where such facilities are approved for animal disposal. Carcasses should be placed in dark plastic bags or other wrapping. Carcasses shall not be deposited in roadside or commercial business refuse dumpsters unless prior approval to do so has been obtained from the dumpster owner or lessee. Carcasses shall not be disposed of in household trash containers.

c. Incineration and Field Burning. Wildlife carcasses may be incinerated in approved facilities that comply with Federal, State, and local regulations. Open burning should be avoided due to potential fire hazards except when this method is required by regulations and can be conducted safely.

d. Donation, Salvage, Sale or Transfer. Wildlife carcasses or parts may be donated, salvaged, sold or transferred when authorized by the State Director, in compliance with existing cooperative agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, and all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Refer to WS Directive 2.510, Fur, Other Animal Parts, and Edible Meat, for guidelines.

5. REFERENCES

WS Directive 2.210, Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations (10/27/09).

WS Directive 2.505, Lethal Control of Animals (05/18/11).

WS Directive 2.510, Fur, Other Animal Parts, and Edible Meat (10/08/03).

WS Directive 2.430, Controlled Chemical Immobilization and Euthanizing Agents (07/06/09).

WS Field Operations Manual for the Use of Immobilization and Euthanasia Drugs, June 2001.



Deputy Administrator