# Deceased Equine - Body Transport and Disposal

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to insure that a deceased equine carcass is removed from the equine center by approved transportation methods and properly disposed of at an approved site or by an approved method.

Responsibilities/Scope

Death may occur as a result of natural death or from euthanasia. Transport must be performed by an approved hauling method or an approved contractor for hauling. Disposal shall take place at an approved disposal site, rendering plant or crematory. The disposal must adhere to county guidelines and regulations. All personnel are responsible for following this procedure.

Procedures

NOTE: Prior to initiating any transport or disposal, verify that tissue samples do NOT need to be taken nor does the body need to be transported to an approved site for necropsy.

NOTE: Any trailer used for transport of a deceased horse MUST be fully enclosed or have enough limited visibility to prevent the general public from viewing the carcass.

1. Immediately contact the Equine Center Manager upon discovery of a deceased animal.
2. Record the date/time of discovery, amount of feed and water left, and any other visual observations, such as marks on the animal that may indicate that the animal struggled or was in extreme discomfort prior to death. For any horses that go down in the Intake barn, photos shall be taken to document the current condition of the horse.

1. Transport and disposal (or arrangements for) shall take place immediately after discovery of the animal. Except for euthanasia cases, the Equine Center Manager will determine if a veterinarian should first examine the horse to determine possible causes of death.
2. If the deceased horse is in a stall and the approved hauler requests that the animal be removed from the stall, staff will assist in removing the horse from the stall.
3. Wrap or secure the rear legs of the horse with a tow rope or drag chain.
4. Secure the tow rope or drag chain to the front loader or pick-up and slowly drag the carcass from the stall. Once the carcass has been removed from the stall, the carcass may be lifted with the forks of the skid steer or tractor and moved. For the Intake and Adoption barns, it is preferred that the carcass be moved outside through the stall runs rather than through the breezeway. If the carcass is removed from the Adoption Barn or the Training Barn, move the carcass to the indoor arena at the training barn.
5. Record any medical information and the selected disposal option in the animal’s record.
6. If transport is not immediately available, the carcass will be covered with a tarp until transport arrives.

Definitions

315 – Euthanasia

Change Summary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Author** |
| 2/1/12 | Original Creation | Mindy Trautman |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |