

Moreton Bay Research Station (MBRS) Animal Waste

1. Scope

This policy applies to following wastes that has been used for research, demonstration, educative, instructive, operational or in any other, non-consumptive way, associated with The University of Queensland's Moreton Bay Research Station either at the Dunwich site or in the surrounding areas:

- Animal carcasses and parts thereof that are not classified as Clinical and Related waste or Cytotoxic Drugs and Related waste
- Used animal litter and foodstuff; and
- Faeces.

This policy **excludes** the following:

- Any of the above 'animal waste' that is in anyway contaminated with an infectious agent;
- Licensed activities;
- Clinical And Related Waste;
- Cytotoxic Drugs and Related Waste; and
- Human Cadavers.

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 infectious wastes; and
- Comply with legal requirements treatment and disposal of Animal Waste.

3. Procedure

The preferable method for disposal of animal waste is incineration or composting. Due to the location of the Moreton Bay Research Station the transport to the University's incinerator is not feasible and composting is not a favourable activity because of the proximity of the local community.

For infectious or contaminated material, the wastes shall be disposed of as the waste it is contaminated with (i.e. clinical and related, chemical or radioactive. Refer to the appropriate procedures in the EMS Manual). Otherwise, the following measure shall be taken for disposal of the wastes.

3.1 Collection

- All animal waste will be placed and sealed in a plastic bag. The plastic bag may be of any type, but shall not be coloured red, yellow or purple (as these indicate waste of a hazardous nature). A plastic shopping bag is sufficient. To minimise the use of bags, as much animal waste as possible should be placed in the same bag from any given laboratory work.

- The bag shall be placed into a closable container marked as “*Animal Waste*” within a freezer. The container is not to be overfilled such that it cannot be closed and must be in sound condition with no splits or cracks. The container shall not be placed in a freezer used for storage of food products or other materials for human consumption and should be isolated from all other contents as best as possible.
- Once the container is full, or once it has been held for more than 2 weeks, on the morning of the next General Waste Collection (refer to the General Waste Procedure – section 9C in the EMS Manual), the contents of the container are to be transferred to the general waste bin.
- The container and any other equipment that may have been used to transfer the waste shall be disinfected immediately after transferring the waste.

3.2 Transporters of Animal Waste

Animal waste must be transported to MBRS by researchers and/or university staff if it is being generated away from the site. If this is required, the following must be adhered to:

- The waste shall be transported directly to MBRS from the source of generation;
- If the travel time to MBRS is less than 4 hours, the waste shall be kept well insulated; and
- If the travel time to MBRS exceeds 4 hours, the waste shall be kept chilled.

Animal Waste can only be taken from site for final disposal by a licensed general waste contractor. Unless otherwise arranged by the Manager MBRS, the waste contractor shall be that contracted by the Redland Shire Council.

3.3 Spills

- Every person generating and/or transporting 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.
- MBRS will have an appropriate spill kit at the research station for use on site by users of the facility. Those working with the waste external to MBRS must carry this equipment with them. This will include all measures for containing, removing and disinfecting a spill area.

4. Waste Process Responsibilities

Responsibility	Action	Contact
Students, Researchers, 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 facilities provided allocated for Animal wastes only. 	Not applicable
Supervisors and MBRS Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that students and staff are trained in the Animal Waste Operating Procedure; and • Provide infrastructure for the disposal of biological waste. 	Consult phone directory as appropriate (MBRS: (07) 3409 9058)
Property and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide waste collection service (general waste); • Liaise with MBRS to ensure that Animal waste management is effectively carried out; and • Review the waste management program at least every 3 years. 	(07) 336 <u>52177</u>

5. Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding the management of Animal Waste shall be addressed to the MBRS Manager on (07) 3409 9058.

6. Definitions

6.1 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.”

6.2 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).

6.3 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 and Related waste.

6.4 Carcass Limbs

Any limb which has been removed from the carcass.

6.5 Used Animal Litter and Foodstuffs

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

6.6 Faeces

Any faeces accumulated or faecal specimens used for testing.

6.7 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.

6.8 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)

7. 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 1995 and Regulations