



Province of Alberta

## ANIMAL HEALTH ACT

# DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS REGULATION

### **Alberta Regulation 229/2000**

With amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 189/2012

### Office Consolidation

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(Consolidated up to 189/2012)

**ALBERTA REGULATION 229/2000**

**Animal Health Act**

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DEAD ANIMALS REGULATION**

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**Definitions**

**1** In this Regulation,

- (a) “composting”, in respect of a dead animal, means decomposing the dead animal or a part of it through a controlled bio-oxidation process that results in a stable humus-like material;
- (b) “dead animal” means
  - (i) a domestic mammal or bird, or part of a domestic mammal or bird, that has died from a cause other than having been slaughtered for human consumption, and
  - (ii) inedible offal or condemned material from animals slaughtered for human consumption;
- (c) “licensed”, in respect of a rendering plant, means licensed under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada);
- (d) “natural disposal”, in respect of a dead animal, means disposing of the dead animal in order to allow scavenging;
- (e) “owner”, in respect of a dead animal, means the owner of the dead animal or a person who is in possession or control of it;

- (f) “rendering plant” means a rendering plant as defined in the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada);
- (g) “reportable disease” means
  - (i) a disease designated as a reportable disease under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada), or
  - (ii) a communicable disease referred to in section 1 of the *Designated Communicable Diseases Regulation* (AR 8/98).

**Methods of disposal**

**2(1)** The owner of a dead animal shall dispose of the animal within 48 hours of its death in accordance with this section.

**(2)** When an animal is known or suspected to have died from an infectious disease or from a reportable disease, the owner of the animal shall dispose of it in accordance with the directions of an inspector appointed under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada) or a chief provincial veterinarian or an inspector appointed under section 6(2) of the *Animal Health Act*, but in no case may the animal be disposed of by natural disposal.

**(3)** The owner of a dead animal that has been euthanised with drugs or other chemical substances shall immediately take steps to prevent scavengers from gaining access to the dead animal between the time the animal is euthanised and the final disposal of the animal.

**(4)** Subject to subsection (2), the owner of a dead animal shall dispose of it by

- (a) burying it in a farm burial pit, if
  - (i) the weight of dead animals in the pit does not exceed 2500 kg, unless subsection (4.1) applies,
  - (ii) the pit is
    - (A) at least 100 metres from wells or other domestic water intakes, streams, creeks, ponds, springs and high water marks of lakes and at least 25 metres from the edge of a coulee, major cut or embankment,
    - (B) at least 100 metres from any residences,

- (C) at least 100 metres from any livestock facilities, including pastures, situated on land owned or leased by another person,
  - (D) at least 300 metres from a primary highway,
  - (E) at least 100 metres from a secondary highway, and
  - (F) at least 50 metres from any other road allowance,
- (iii) the pit is covered with
  - (A) a minimum of one metre of compacted soil, or
  - (B) a wooden or metal lid that is designed to exclude scavengers, if quicklime is applied to the dead animal in sufficient quantities to control flies and odour,
- and
- (iv) the bottom of the pit is at least one metre above the seasonal highwater table,
- (b) burying it in a Class I or Class II landfill as defined in the *Waste Control Regulation* (AR 192/96), if the site has a full-time operator who agrees to immediately bury the dead animal,
- (c) burning it in accordance with
  - (i) the *Substance Release Regulation* (AR 124/93), or
  - (ii) the *Code of Practice for Small Incinerators*, published by the Department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development,
- (d) composting
  - (i) in a Class I compost facility as defined in the *Waste Control Regulation* (AR 192/96) that is designed, constructed and operated in accordance with sections 6 and 7 of the *Code of Practice for Compost Facilities*, published by the Department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, or
  - (ii) subject to subsection (5), in a farm open compost pile that is

- (A) located at least 100 metres from wells or other domestic water intakes, streams, creeks, ponds, springs and highwater marks of lakes and at least 25 metres from the edge of a coulee, major cut or embankment,
  - (B) located at least 100 metres from any residences,
  - (C) designed in a manner that will exclude scavengers, and
  - (D) at least 100 metres from any livestock facilities, including pastures, situated on land owned or leased by another person,
- (e) transporting it to a licensed rendering plant for disposal, or
- (f) subject to subsection (6), natural disposal.

**(4.1)** Where because of flood, fire, starvation or other similar disaster there are multiple deaths of animals and the weight of the dead animals exceeds 2500 kg, the animals may be buried in a farm pit subject to the approval of and in accordance with the direction of a chief provincial veterinarian or an inspector appointed under section 6(2) of the *Animal Health Act*.

**(5)** Where under subsection (4)(d)(ii) animals are to be composted in a farm open compost pile,

- (a) repealed AR 189/2007 s2,
- (b) the maximum volume of the animals or parts of them must not exceed 25% of the total compost pile, and
- (c) the animals or parts of them must be covered by at least 15 cm of composting material.

**(6)** Subject to subsection (2), a dead animal, other than inedible offal or condemned material, may be disposed of by natural disposal if

- (a) the animal is disposed of on property owned or leased by the owner of the animal,
- (b) the animal was not euthanised with drugs or other chemical substances,
- (c) the total weight of the animals being disposed of at any one site does not exceed 1000 kg,
- (d) there is a distance of at least 500 metres between disposal sites,

- (e) the disposal site is
  - (i) at least 500 metres from wells or other domestic water intakes, streams, creeks, ponds, water wells, springs and high water marks of lakes and at least 25 metres from the edge of a coulee, major cut or embankment,
  - (ii) at least 400 metres from any livestock facilities, including pastures, situated on land owned or leased by another person,
  - (iii) at least 400 metres from any residences,
  - (iv) at least 400 metres from any road allowance, and
  - (v) at least 400 metres from any provincial park, recreation area, natural area, ecological reserve, wilderness area or forest recreation area,

and

- (f) disposing by natural disposal does not create a nuisance.

(7) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the owner of a dead animal may store the dead animal for more than 48 hours after its death if it is stored

- (a) for not more than one week in an enclosed structure with impervious walls and floors that have been constructed for the storage of dead animals,
- (b) outside during winter months when the ambient temperature is low enough to keep the dead animal completely frozen,
- (c) in a freezer unit, or
- (d) in accordance with the directions of an inspector appointed under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada) or the chief provincial veterinarian or an inspector appointed under section 6(2) of the *Animal Health Act*.

AR 229/2000 s2;238/2002;255/2004;189/2007;  
288/2009;31/2012;170/2012

### Rendering plant

**3(1)** The owner or operator of a rendering plant shall ensure that

- (a) a dead animal rendered at the plant is subjected to such temperature and pressure as is necessary to render every

portion of the carcass free from all viable pathogenic organisms, and

- (b) microbiological quality assurance processes are in place to prevent the occurrence of viable pathogenic organisms.

**(2)** The owner or operator of a rendering plant when shipping material from a dead animal to another rendering plant shall ensure that

- (a) the material is shipped in such a manner so as to prevent
  - (i) any dissemination of pathogenic organisms into the environment from the leakage of blood or other body fluids, and
  - (ii) the contamination of any animal or human food,
- (b) the other rendering plant will render the material free of all viable pathogenic organisms, and
- (c) a complete record is kept of the shipment, including the date of shipment, method of transport and the name and address of the rendering plant to which it was shipped.

#### **Diagnosis of animal diseases**

**4** Nothing in this Regulation prohibits the collection and transport of a dead animal as may be required by a veterinarian or the owner of the dead animal for the diagnosis of animal diseases.

#### **Dead animal as food**

**5** No person shall feed a dead animal to other food producing animals unless

- (a) the material from the dead animal has been properly rendered at a licensed rendering plant and the prohibition to feed prohibited material to ruminants under the *Health of Animals Regulation* (Canada) is complied with, or
- (b) the feeding of the material is a recognized means of stimulating natural immunity for specific disease conditions and the prohibition to feed prohibited material to ruminants under the *Health of Animals Regulation* (Canada) is complied with.

#### **Advisory committee**

**6** The Minister may appoint an advisory committee under section 7 of the *Government Organization Act* consisting of both



government and industry representatives to oversee the implementation of this Regulation.

**Repeal**

**7** The *Regulations Regarding the Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals* (AR 128/66) are repealed.

**Expiry**

**8** For the purpose of ensuring that this Regulation is reviewed for ongoing relevancy and necessity, with the option that it may be repassed in its present or an amended form following a review, this Regulation expires on November 30, 2015.

AR 229/2000 s8;354/2003;241/2009;136/2010;189/2012







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