

Part H: Animal Tissue Disposal

Sanitary Sewer and Normal Trash/**1H**

Radioactive Animal Tissue/**1H**

Biohazardous Animals/**2H**

Animal Tissue Disposal Service/**3H**

Disposal of Other Biohazardous Waste/**3H**

This Part describes the procedures for disposal of animal waste, bedding, carcasses, and tissue. References are given below for other campus procedures for disposing of radioactive animals, human tissue, human blood and body fluids, and biohazardous waste.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) manages the use of live animals in research and teaching at UWL. If you plan to use live laboratory animals, be sure to contact the Chairperson of IACUC. Conduct a web search for IACUC from UWL's homepage to identify contact information for IACUC.

Most animal bedding can safely be disposed of in your building's normal trash dumpster.

SANITARY SEWER AND NORMAL TRASH

In general, the urine and feces of laboratory animals can be disposed of in the sanitary sewer (if liquid) or the normal trash (if it is solid or absorbed into bedding).

Wastewater from the animal care facilities and large volumes of urine, animal blood, and fluids should be disposed in a laboratory sink, followed by flushing with water and cleaning with a suitable disinfectant. Do not wash urine, feces, or blood into a storm sewer, which leads directly to the river, untreated. All outdoor drains are storm sewers. All laboratory sinks are connected to the sanitary sewer system that leads to the La Crosse Wastewater Treatment Plant.

For other non-biohazardous animal bedding and urine and other animal fluids that are completely absorbed into bedding or other adsorbents, use the normal trash dumpster. The bedding or other adsorbents should be placed in a durable disposal bag, then sealed prior to placement in the normal trash dumpster.

Do not wash urine, feces, or blood into a storm sewer.

RADIOACTIVE ANIMAL TISSUE

Animal tissue and carcasses that contain radioactive materials must be disposed of according to procedures established by UWL's Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). Conduct a web search for Radiation Safety Officer from UWL's homepage to identify contact information for this individual.

Animal tissue and carcasses that contain radioactive materials, infectious agents, or toxic chemicals may require special disposal procedures.

BIOHAZARDOUS ANIMALS

The majority of remaining animals and animal waste can be disposed of as solid waste in normal trash dumpsters, as described below. However, additional precautions are necessary for biohazardous animal waste to avoid transportation risks, unnecessary handling, and exposure risks to uninformed waste handlers.

Biohazard pertains to the presence of an infectious agent. Do not label waste containing only carcinogens or other toxic chemicals as biohazards.

Biohazardous animal waste includes bedding, carcasses, and tissue from animals known or suspected of carrying infectious microorganisms, whether experimentally or naturally infected. At UWL, biohazardous animal waste is animal waste known or suspected of carrying agents assigned to Biosafety Level 2 or 3 (BL-2 or BL-3). Biohazard Levels are defined in *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health. This document is available in the internet at <https://www.cdc.gov/labs/BMBL.html>. Please check the above reference to determine the Biosafety Level of the agents with which you work. Be sure to label biohazardous animal waste with the universal biohazard symbol.

Please identify your biohazardous waste with a universal biohazard symbol label.

If you work with biohazardous animals, you must consult with Environmental Health and Safety prior to disposing of the animals. Contact Environmental Health and Safety to evaluate on-site and off-site disposal options. Prior approval is not necessary if the waste is decontaminated.

Do not dispose of animals that are biohazardous without prior approval from Environmental Health and Safety.

On-site Decontamination

On-site decontamination (e.g. autoclaving, chemical disinfection) is usually required for animal waste from BL-2 and BL-3 laboratories. Contact Environmental Health and Safety with any disposal or decontamination questions.

Off-site Decontamination

Environmental Health and Safety will work with you to evaluate your biohazardous waste treatment and disposal options, such as autoclaving, chemical disinfection, incineration, or temporary on-site storage. If off-site incineration is appropriate, Environmental Health and Safety can arrange for disposal.

Timely coordination with Environmental Health and Safety is important when disposing of biohazardous waste.

Please note that you may be requested to help Environmental Health and Safety with off-site waste handling, transport, and disposal. This assistance would be requested for high volume waste, unusually hazardous waste, or when animal handlers are required to take special occupational health precautions (e.g., vaccinations).

ANIMAL TISSUE DISPOSAL SERVICE

Animal carcasses that are not biohazardous, contaminated with radioactive materials, preserved in alcohol, or preserved by a taxidermist can be disposed as non-hazardous solid waste. Contact Environmental Health and Safety to confirm a disposal method for other animal tissue.

Carcasses that have been chemically preserved with formalin or glutaraldehyde can be placed in two securely sealed disposal/trash bags prior to placement into the building solid waste dumpster. Any free-flowing liquids should be drained from the carcass, prior to disposal. Contact Environmental Health and Safety to arrange for disposal of quantities over 10 gallons. The drained preservative solution should be disposed in the sanitary sewer system followed by copious amounts of water.

The disposal of carcasses that have been chemically preserved with solutions other than formalin or glutaraldehyde should be reviewed with Environmental Health and Safety. Some preservatives contain ethanol, arsenic or other chemicals at concentration sufficient to classify the carcass and preservative as hazardous waste. In such cases, Environmental Health and Safety will properly discard such carcasses as hazardous waste.

If the carcasses have not been chemically preserved place the carcasses in two disposal/trash bags, securely seal the bags and if possible freeze the contents. Freezing assists in preventing putrefaction, aerosols, and dripping liquids. Contact Environmental Health and Safety for instructions on working with UWL's solid waste coordinator to remove the waste. Otherwise, an online work request can be submitted for this service to Facilities Planning and Management. .

Human tissues shall not be disposed in the solid waste stream at UWL. All human cadaver tissues must be properly handled through the UW Madison Medical School's Body Donation Program. Contact Environmental Health and Safety if you require assistance with coordinating the respectful handling/disposal of human tissues.

Other human tissue from live subjects (biopsy tissues, etc.) must be labeled as biohazards and autoclaved prior to placement into the building solid waste dumpster.

DISPOSAL OF OTHER BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE

Biohazardous agents, infectious agents, bloodborne pathogens, medical waste, and red bag waste must be treated before disposal. Autoclaving is the usual treatment method. Refer to Appendix J of this Guide for information on autoclaving safety. After treatment, place the containers into an opaque disposal/trash bag prior to placement in the building dumpster. All autoclaved containers placed in the trash should have an autoclave indicator strip on the biohazard bag prior to autoclaving. Part I of this guide describes the procedures for disposal of needles and other sharps.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. If you have animal carcasses for disposal that are contaminated with radioactive materials, you should:
 - a) Store them for three half-lives, then dispose of them in the normal trash
 - b) Consult the UWL Radiation Safety Officer
 - c) Consult your Chemical Hygiene Officer
 - d) Send them to an approved landfill
2. Lab animal tissue preserved in formalin is properly disposed by:
 - a) The normal trash
 - b) Bag them, box them, freeze them, attach a waste label to the box, and contact Environmental Health and Safety for pick-up.
 - c) Draining and properly disposing of the preservative solution into the sanitary sewer, then double bag, seal, and dispose tissue in normal trash.
 - d) None of the above
3. Biohazardous animals and animal wastes are animals and animal wastes that contain:
 - a) Agents assigned to Biosafety Level 2 or 3 according to *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*
 - b) Agents assigned to Biosafety Level 1, 2 or 3 according to *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*
 - c) Radioactive material
 - d) Carcinogens or other toxic chemicals
 - e) Any of the above

ANSWERS

1. b) Consult the UWL Radiation Safety Officer.
2. c) Draining and properly disposing of the preservative solution into the sanitary sewer, then double bag, seal, and dispose tissue in normal trash.
3. a) Agents assigned to Biosafety Level 2 or 3 according to *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*.