

VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Disposal of Deceased Animals

A veterinary establishment is required to have an acceptable method for disposal of deceased animals. Refrigeration exclusively for carcasses of companion animals that require storage for 24 hours or more is required. Disposal of a deceased animal must also be compliant with all local ordinances.

References

Regulations

18VAC150-20-200. Standards for veterinary establishments.

A. Full-service establishments. A full-service establishment shall provide surgery and encompass all aspects of health care for small or large animals, or both. All full-service establishments shall meet the requirements set forth below:

1. Buildings and grounds must be maintained to provide sanitary facilities for the care and medical well-being of patients.

b. Water and waste. There shall be on-premises:

(2) An acceptable method of disposal of deceased animals; and

(3) Refrigeration exclusively for carcasses of companion animals that require storage for 24 hours or more.

Other

Please review the Department of Environmental Quality's guidance documents at www.deq.virginia.gov related to the following:

- [**Waste Guidance Memo No. 03-2009: On-Site Burial of Routine Animal Mortality**](#)
- [**Waste Guidance Memo No. 02-2009: On-Site Composting of Routine Animal Mortality**](#)