

Summary of Horse Carcass Disposal Options in Maryland

In general, horse carcasses should be disposed of in a manner that:

1. Does not spread disease
2. Does not endanger public health
3. Does not negatively impact the environment

Options

1. Bury to a depth of at least 3 ft with soil overtop and liming over the carcass before backfilling
2. Rendering
3. Composting
4. Cremation
5. Burning

State and Local jurisdictions involved:

- Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Maryland Department of Health
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- County Animal Control

State of Maryland

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)

§ 3-108 Maryland Code

When any animal is slaughtered under the provisions of the subtitle, the owner may dispose of the carcass or any part of it, the hides, and offal, pursuant to the departmental rules and regulations, and in a manner that does not tend to spread disease or endanger the public health.

§ 3-109 Maryland Code

The owner of any domestic animal that has died of a contagious or infectious disease shall bury it to a depth of at least three feet or burn it within three hours before sunset of the day following the discovery of the animal.

Alleghany

I called alleghany county animal control and was told to call the dept of ag. at 301-334-2185

Called 301-334-2185, spoke to Dr. Jim Fearer, Western region animal health vet, animal health section of MD Dept of Agriculture.

Dr. Jim Fearer.....301-334-2185

State Vet., Maryland Animal Health Lab
P.O. Box 376
Oakland, MD 21550

address from <http://www.extension.umd.edu/local/garrett/4-H%20Youth%20Development/Mkt%20Animals/2007%20Guide%20Book%20for%204H%20FFA%20Market%20Animals.pdf>

He gave me three recommended methods of disposal:

1. having a renderer out
2. burial with 2ft soil over top of carcass. Liming over the carcass before backfilling is recommended in this case
3. composting

He also said that MD Dept. of ag has an old regulation from before environmental concerns were an issue that says any animal dying of infection or disease must be buried within 24 hrs of death.

If a necropsy is done, a crematory is usually available (at various labs: College Park, Frederick) or a renderer will be used if no crematory is available.

Labs with crematories will cremate a horse for a fee.

Dr. Fearer said to check with the county health dept. & with MD dept. of envt. regional office

I called the health dept. and spoke to Elayne Warren, Environmental Health

Sanitarian
ALLEGANY COUNTY
Health Department
P.O. Box 1745
12500 Willowbrook Road
Cumberland, MD 21502

301-777-5647

address and phone from
<http://www.dbm.state.md.us/phonebook/IndDetails.asp?EmpID=269&OID=88>

She said there were no specific rules or regulations on the books and that the health dept would only get involved if the corpse was not disposed of.

She also said that it should be buried, which is the preferred method, or disposed of by the renderers.

MD DOE regional office only has Air and Radiation and Water Management field offices, see <http://www.mde.state.md.us/AboutMDE/Locations/index.asp>.

So, I called MDE Main Office at 410-537-3000 and was referred to 410-767-6830, Infectious Waste.

I called the number and got the answering machine.

I will follow up with infectious waste, but wanted to submit the most conclusive parts of my research before I get caught up in work, etc... tomorrow and forget.

Anne Arundel

§ 12-4-910. Disposal of animal carcasses and sick animals.

The owner of a dead animal may not deposit or leave the animal on public property or the property of another person. Dead animals shall be promptly disposed of by **cremation, burial, or other sanitary means**. On request, the Agency shall pick up dead dogs, cats, and other small domestic animals for disposal for a fee not to exceed the actual cost of the disposal. In addition to other assigned duties, an animal control officer or an authorized representative of an animal control officer shall collect dead animals found on public grounds or highways and dispose of the carcasses and destroy critically sick and injured animals found on public property or on the request of the owner of the animal.

(1985 Code, Art. 12, § 9-110) (Bill No. 41-01)

§ 12-4-611. Surrender and disposal of dead animal exposed to rabies.

The ↻carcass↻ of any dead animal exposed to rabies shall be surrendered to an animal control officer, the County Health Officer, or the State Veterinarian on demand. An animal control officer or the authorized representative of an animal control officer shall supervise the disposition of the ↻carcass↻ of any animal in his or her possession found to be infected with rabies or of any dead animal that the animal control officer or the authorized representative of the animal control officer considers to be a health menace or a hazard to the public health and welfare.

(1985 Code, Art. 12, § 6-111) (Bill No. 41-01)

I spent an incredibly long time on the phone with representatives from the Anne Arundel health department, animal control, health and nuisance, the animal health office, and the environmental regulations office and not one place seemed to know what the regulations were in the county for disposing of an equine carcass. Animal control told me that once the animal passed on they no longer dealt with them, and yet, every other office that I called suggested that I called animal control. In addition many of the offices directed me to call a company to take the animal away and when I told them that I was looking for the regulations of the county they informed me that they had no idea. I spoke to Gene a receptionist at the Animal Health Center who suggested I called the lab. When I called the lab in college park, since there is not one in Anne Arundel county, they also told me that they were not sure as to the regulations for Anne Arundel county. I found it incredibly frustrating that it was so difficult to find information on something that is hard enough of the person that is looking for the information.

What I was able to find concerned general laws as well as Maryland state laws for the disposal of equine carcasses at

http://www.uvm.edu/%7Eascibios/?Page=Animal/Disposal_of_Dead_Animals.html&SM=submenuanimal.html . These laws stipulate that the different types of disposal

options are calling a licensed collector to bring the animal to an approved Animal Disposal Pit, incineration, and composting. Composting seems to be a really good option since there is no smoke to contaminate the air which incinerating would cause. Also the heat in the compost pile kills pathogens and is a good biosecurity option.

I was finally able to get in touch with the State Veterinarian, Dr. Guy Hohenhaus, who was incredibly helpful.

He directed me to the annotated code of Maryland which stipulates that if an animal has died of a contagious or infectious disease it has to be buried at a depth of at least three feet or it must be burned within three hours before sunset of the day following the discovery of the animal. This information was found at

<http://michie.lexisnexis.com/maryland/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&cp=>). He informed me that in different places the burial regulations are different due to the soil type. Also, he recommend the website,

http://www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/ah_ref_guide_fee_sched.php#necropsy , which speaks about necropsy, cremation, and disposal services and fees. This website tells that veterinary diagnostics and pathologists will perform the examination of the animal and collect necessary specimens for laboratory tests. The fees for necropsy include histopathologic examination, most bacterial and viral ID procedures and parasite ID.

I called the Anne Arundel County Department of Health- Environmental Health branch and spoke with Richard Olsen who informed me that there are no specific regulations for Anne Arundel county and that they follow state law. As mentioned above the state law says that an animal with a contagious or infectious disease it has to be buried at a depth of at least three feet or it must be burned within three hours before sunset of the day following the discovery of the animal.

According to an article written by the equiery which can be found at (http://www.equiery.com/archives/FrontPage/11_06FrontPage.pdf), horse owners in Maryland can either send their horses bodies to a rendering plant for private cremation or send them to a lab where they will necropsy them and then arrange for them to be disposed. According to the article the current price for disposal any where in Maryland is \$275 plus 50 cents a pound for cremation or \$625 for a necropsy with rendering. And these prices only apply to people that live within the state of Maryland. The article then goes on to talk about the difference in Necropsy and Disposal fees between Maryland Labs and Pennsylvania labs such as New Bolton. Here is the breakdown straight from the article:

“MD vs. PA Necropsy & Disposal Fees

Maryland Labs:	New Bolton:
ADULT EQUINE NECROPSIES	
\$275	*\$88
FOAL NECROPSIES	
\$125	*\$44
CREMATIONS	
50¢/pound (w/some exceptions)	approx. \$200-\$1000 plus
RENDERING/DISPOSAL	
\$350 for rendering through	\$35 for carcass disposal

NOTE: In Maryland, disposal only includes incineration of the carcass only, with no necropsy performed. Horse owners may elect rendering instead of cremation, but only after necropsy. Cremation with ash return is available at all Maryland labs except Oakland.

* New Bolton also charges a \$10 accession fee to help recover costs when multiple samples are done for one type of test.”

Baltimore

Under Baltimore County Code § 12-3-107. DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS:

It is required that the owner of a dead animal shall dispose of the animal at the owner’s expense. A person may not place, leave, or cause another person to place or leave the carcass of a dead animal in a street, alley, or on public property. Also, you can not allow the carcass of a dead animal to remain on the person’s property. (This code applies to all animals including horses)

Under Baltimore code (1988 Code, § 6-207) (Bill No. 3-00, § 4, 7-1-2004; Bill No. 72-03, § 27, 7-1-2004)

This pertains to Public property. Except as authorized by state law, a person may not throw, cast, or deposit any dead carcass or parts of a dead carcass into or on any highway, byway, alley, lot or tract of land in the county, or any groundwater’s or surface waters of the county.

Under Baltimore County Code 1908, ch. 587, sec. 128. B. Co. C. (1916), sec. 258. 1928. sec. 304.

No person shall haul, cart, carry, drag or deposit any dead carcass or other carrion in Baltimore County, within one mile of the City of Baltimore, unless he shall bury or cause the same to be buried at least two feet under ground, and so as effectually to prevent any offensive smell there- from under the penalty of twenty dollars for each offense, together with the expenses of burying or removing the same, and any other person who shall bury or remove any dead carcass or offensive carrion, thrown out and deposited contrary to the provisions of this section, shall recover, before any justice of the peace, against the person guilty of such offense, all expenses incurred in burying and removing the same.

Under Baltimore County Code Ibid. sec. 379. 1888, art. 27, sec. 242. 1874, ch. 355. 431.

If any person shall place, cast or throw into the Potomac river, at any point above the canal dam, near the mouth of Wills' creek, any dead body or carcass of any dog, horse, cow, hog, cat or other animal whatsoever, or shall drown therein any animal whatsoever, or shall place, cast or throw therein any substance whatsoever, calculated to render the waters of said river impure or unfit for use, he shall forfeit and pay a sum of not less than twenty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, one-half to the informer and the other half to the State

References:

- ❖ <http://archive1.mdarchives.state.md.us/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000373/html/am373--444.html>
- ❖ [http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Maryland/baltimore_co/article12animals/title3animalwelfare?f=templates\\$fn=altmain-nf.htm\\$3.0](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Maryland/baltimore_co/article12animals/title3animalwelfare?f=templates$fn=altmain-nf.htm$3.0)
- ❖ <http://www.djs.state.md.us/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000377/html/am377--610.html>

Calvert

I spoke with multiple people but did not have much luck recovering information that pertains to Horse Carcass disposal. I called the extension office and the operator directed me to the Calvert County Animal Control Office. I spoke with a lady named Linda. She said that they had no specific regulations towards Horse Carcass Disposal that she knew of. She suggested that I talk with Planning and Zoning. They were unaware of any codes that pertain to Horse Carcass Disposal so they transferred me over to the department of Transportation and Highway Safety. They directed me to this website which talks about Animal Carcass Disposal and pertains to all animals:

Animal Carcass Disposal

“In accordance with the County’s approved Department of the Environment Refuse Disposal Permit for the St. Andrews Municipal Landfill, animal carcasses are specifically

prohibited from being accepted at the site for disposal. When a large or small "1079", dead animal, is reported to the Department a road maintenance foreman is advised of the location and instructed to immediately bury the carcass. The type and quantity of the reports varies seasonally. Burial requires careful site selection because a carcass decomposes, becomes unsightly and creates a gathering location for vermin. Care is taken to assure the location provides adequate worker safety. As a general rule, burial should not occur in areas with a high groundwater table or in close proximity to lakes, streams, wetlands or wells. In addition, precautionary measures discourage direct handling of the carcasses by employees, as the animal(s) health is not known. Incineration is not practiced as a means of disposal at this time. To address this need, the County is supporting, and plans to fund, it's share of a crematorium facility at the Tri-County animal shelter in Hughesville. In the interim, foremen are required to deliver the carcass to the Appeal Facility in Calvert County."

Reference:

<http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/dpw/dpwtemplate.asp?content=littercontrolcontent.asp>

Caroline

Carroll

Cecil

Charles

Dorchester

http://www.e-codes.generalcode.com/codebook_frameset.asp

Frederick

Garrett

Harford

The county code (http://gcp.esub.net/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=57528&infobase=harford.nfo&softpage=Browse_Frame_Pg42) does not mention it at all. I read the chapters on agriculture and animals and searched for "horses" and "livestock" with no luck.

I called Harford County council (410-638-3000). The operator directed me to Animal Control (410-638-3505). Animal Control informed me that horse/livestock carcass disposal is not part of their department and referred me to the Department of Environmental Health (443-643-0300). The Department of Environmental Health also informed me that this is not part of their department and referred me back to the County Council.

I also called the county Extension office (410-638-3255). They could not refer me to any written materials stating county regulations and suggested I contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

If you have further suggestions for where I can look for information or who I can call, I will be happy to keep looking.

Howard

(8) **Dead** animals shall not be accepted for disposal at sanitary landfill sites.

Kent

Montgomery

Prince Georges

Queen Anne's

St. Mary's

It shall be unlawful to dispose of animal **carcasses** at any county trash disposal facility (or any public or private area).

Somerset

Inceration or burial

Talbot

http://www.town-eastonmd.com/Code_Charter_2002.pdf

Sec. 4-7. Animal carcasses.

It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dead horse, cow, sheep or other animal carcass, to permit the same to lie within the town limits longer than a reasonable time for removing or burying the same.

Washington

Wicomico

Worcester

Here are the regulations I found for Worcester County. The regulations are available here:

http://gcp.esub.net/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=47290&advquery=cremation&infobase=worcest.nfo&record={99806B8F.21.0.0}&softpage=Browse_Frame_Pg42

CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, v13
(Includes Zoning, v1) Updated 04-25-2007

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE

Title 2, ANIMALS

SUBTITLE I, Animal Control

§ PS 2-101. General provisions. [Amended 4-19-2005 by Bill No. 05-3]

(q)Disposition of dead animals. It shall be unlawful for the owner or guardian of any animal to deposit or leave such animal, upon its death, on public property or on the property of another person without permission from such person. All such dead animals shall be promptly disposed of by cremation, burial or other sanitary means. The Animal Control Warden, where requested, shall pick up dead dogs, cats and other small domestic pet-type animals for disposal for a fee to be established pursuant to resolution of the County Commissioners.