



FAQ

How do I dispose of Animal Remains?

Proper disposal of dead animals and animal remains is important to prevent the transmission of disease and to protect the environment. This includes remains of livestock, poultry, game animals, wildlife, pets, and other animals. See below for recommendations for birds.

The three most common options for disposal are:

Disposal in a Landfill

Animal remains may be disposed in a permitted landfill. Contact your local landfill about specific requirements for disposal.

Cremation or Incineration

Animal remains may be cremated or incinerated and the ashes disposed in a permitted landfill.

Burial

It may be possible to bury animal remains on private land. The following requirements must be met:

- Check with local authorities to ensure burial of the animal does not violate local ordinances.
- Ensure that ground water is at least 10 feet below ground surface.
- Obtain permission from the landowner.
- Ensure that the burial site is at least 100 feet from any drinking water well, stream, lake, or other water body.
- Cover the remains with lime before burying, particularly when needed to control odors.
- Cover the remains immediately with at least 2 feet of soil.

The remains of livestock with infectious diseases require special considerations:

Dead livestock that may have infectious or contagious diseases must be disposed under the guidance and authorization of the State Veterinarian. If you have any questions, contact your local veterinarian or call the [Office of the State Veterinarian](#) at 907-375-8215. Wildlife carcasses with possible infections or contagious diseases must be disposed under guidance from the [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#).

How should I dispose of a dead bird?

Due to the spread of avian disease, any wild bird found dead with no obvious cause, such as a power line or building, should be reported to the [Alaska Sick and Dead Bird Hotline](#) at 1-866- 527-3358. For your safety, you should not handle sick or dead wild birds. Any domestic bird that has died of unknown causes should be handled carefully to prevent the spread of disease. If you suspect the bird died from avian flu, contact the State Veterinarian at 907-375-8215.

Safety Precautions:

- Do not touch a dead bird with your bare hands.
 - Use disposable, protective gloves or put your hand inside a plastic bag when handling a dead bird.
 - Turn the bag or gloves inside out as you remove them to avoid contamination.
 - Contaminated gloves or bags should be sealed inside a clean plastic bag, and disposed with other household garbage or buried.
- After handling the bird wash your hands thoroughly with soap.
- Disinfect any surfaces or objects that are likely to be contaminated.
- Clothing that may have contacted the bird should be washed immediately.

Disposal Options:

- Household Garbage
 - Place the dead bird in a plastic bag and seal the bag.
 - Put the bag containing the dead bird into a second plastic bag.
 - Place the bag in the trash can or dumpster with your normal household garbage.
- Burial
 - Ensure that groundwater is at least 10 feet below ground surface.
 - Dig a hole at least two feet deep.
 - Holding the bag (using gloves or another plastic bag) by the corners of the closed end, let the carcass fall out of the bag into the hole.
 - Cover the carcass with dirt and fill the hole.
 - Place the used bag and gloves (or other hand protection) inside a clean plastic bag and seal it. This may be disposed with other household garbage.