

PREPARATION FOR EUTHANASIA OF LIVESTOCK IN DISEASE ERADICATION

STANDARD METHODS OF EUTHANASIA

Intravenous and Chemical Euthanasia

- Option for small animals and small groups of animals
- Requires proper DEA and State Controlled Substance License
- Choose preferred Euthanasia Solutions
- Choose appropriate chemical restraint drugs to facilitate Euthanasia
 - Xylazine, Ketamine, Telazol, Acepromazine, etc
- Provide Dosage schedules
- Provide medical waste and sharps disposal
- Provide needles, syringes and IV tubes, equipment
- Provide Controlled substance logs
- Training requires licensed veterinarian or Certified Euthanasia Technicians
- No known environmental risks

Captive Bolt and Pithing Euthanasia

- Considered most applicable method for large numbers of large animals
- Requires Pithing after using bolt to insure Euthanasia
- Does not require license or veterinary training
- Correct use is essential
- Dangerous equipment
- Equipment requires maintenance
- Equipment can fail
- Animals will spasm and move afterwards = Educate witnesses and public

Euthanasia by Carbon Monoxide or Carbon Dioxide gases – Poultry

- Avian Influenza Task Force Review Provided
- Portable Chambers are available
- Combustion engines not acceptable gas source
- Make shift chambers are effective
- Does not require veterinarians to administer
- May require state permits or licensure
- Public opinion is poor
- Requires OSHA compliance
- Requires available source of gas tanks
- Gas is under pressure and explosion hazard
- Can do multiple animals at once
- Welfare requires no overcrowding in chamber

Euthanasia by Electrocutation

- Difficult to use in field
- Portable units available
- Requires electrical source
- Dangerous to operators
- Wet conditions are dangerous
- Not reliable – can require bleeding to complete procedure
- Public perception is poor

Euthanasia by Gunshot

- Acceptable by AVMA etc
- Should be last resort method
- Requires specific training to own guns
- May violate local ordinances
- Should pith animal if possible
- Poor public support

EUTHANASIA EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES – EUTHANASIA KITS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captive Bolts – 2 sizes preferred | <input type="checkbox"/> IV lines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pithing Rods – enough for several animals | <input type="checkbox"/> IV bags or jugs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourniquet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goggles or face shield | <input type="checkbox"/> Captive bolt instructions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsy knives and sharpeners | <input type="checkbox"/> Dosage schedules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled substance records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clippers | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal ID records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stethoscope | <input type="checkbox"/> Clip boards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needles (16g, 18g, 20g, 11/2 inch) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharps containers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Syringes (60cc, 30cc, 12cc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical waste bags |

*****Euthanasia Solutions must be stored separately*****

EUTHANASIA PERSONNEL SOURCES AND TRAINING

Sources of Personnel

- Licensed Veterinarians
- Experienced Slaughtermen
- Certified Euthanasia Technicians
- Farmhands and Industry staff

Training, Services, and Support for Personnel

- Controlled substances require licensure, but State laws may allow technicians to use controlled substance under vet's direction
- Certified Euthanasia Technician Seminars
- Administration of chemicals and IV solutions
- Safe use of Captive Bolts and Piths
- Biosecurity Training required
- Proper animal restraint and cattle chutes needed
- Laws, Regulations, and Animal welfare
- Tracking, record keeping and reporting
- Development of standardized Protocols and Procedures
- Coordination and Synchronization with Disposal teams
- Mental Health Services

Pre-arranged Contracts and Agreements

- Contract Slaughterhouses to provide personnel and equipment
 - Provide them with training and some supplies
- Recruit Licensed Veterinarians and Technicians
 - Enlist support of Veterinary Medical Associations
 - Arrange to hire them when needed
 - Form Euthanasia Teams with Veterinarian oversight
 - Provide training and some supplies
- Develop a Primary Euthanasia Team within state agencies
 - Provide training and equipment
 - Develop MOU with state agencies involved
 - Develop MOU with other states
 - Request sharing teams, as needed

PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS – ANIMAL RIGHTS AND ACTIVISM

Security

- Provide for personal and farm security for the teams and the facility
- Minimize public and media access to euthanasia and disposal
- Identify and address Animal Rights groups and Activists
 - Be prepared to provide public information about Euthanasia

Public Relations Protocol

- Identify the personnel within each agency and cooperating group responsible for this
- Develop a unified and cohesive media campaign to address this issue
- Have that campaign distributed to all groups involved ahead of time
- Address both animal and human concerns in the literature prepared
- Print out make ready literature to disseminate

Welfare and Animal Care

- Insure the humane treatment of all animals involved
- Choose appropriate euthanasia methods based on level of public exposure
 - Consider IV methods in backyard settings
- Consider assigning specific personnel to act as a Monitor and Liaison on Animal Welfare
 - This person could assure the public that the animal's welfare is being addressed
 - That the euthanasia is being administered properly, promptly and professionally

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR EUTHANASIA PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL OWNERS

Prearrange protocols and contact information; provide preparatory training and briefings; and request literature from the following:

Federal Agencies

- Department of Health and Human Services
- FEMA
- OSHA
- Red Cross
- Armed Forces

State Agencies

- Dept of Mental Health and Retardation related agencies
- Public Safety agencies
- Universities

Private Organizations

- Private Mental Health Practitioners
- Mental Health Associations and Organizations
- Local Hospitals and Health care facilities

REFERENCES CONCERNING ACCEPTABLE METHODS AND ANIMAL WELFARE

United States Department of Agricultural, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), [National Animal Health Emergency Management System \(NAHEMS\) Guidelines](#) (On-line via registration at <<http://emrs.aphis.usda.gov/nahems.html>> and adapted for appendix to this ERP).

The basis for most state protocols. It calls for the humane care of all animals awaiting eradication, milking of cows. Allows for chemical, mechanical and electrical euthanasia.

American Veterinary Medical Association, "[2000 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia](#)," *JAVMA* 218:5 (March 1, 2001)

<http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf>

Considers captive bolt acceptable and practical, but warns about proper use in small ruminants. Carbon Dioxide Euthanasia of Poultry is an accepted practice under USDA guidelines

Code of Federal Regulations, CFR 9 Subchapters A+B

Contains definition of euthanasia and federal guidelines for animal welfare. Outlines standards of care expected at all times and during eradication.

Individual State Animal Regulations and related laws (Controlled substance laws, Medical waste laws, Veterinary Practice Acts).

Each state reviews and attaches these to its protocol. See Animal Care and Welfare Regulations ([RIGL Title 4](#) <<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE4/INDEX.HTM>>, Chapters 1, 4, 13, 19 et al.)

Wilson, James F. *Law and Ethics of the Veterinary Profession* (Yardley, PA: Priority Press Ltd. 1993).

Definitive overall review of laws and ethics that apply to euthanasia and veterinary practice.