



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT  
5630 SOUTH BROADWAY EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95503

UC  
CE Cooperative Extension  
Humboldt - Del Norte

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## Guidelines for the Disposal of Dead Animals

It is permissible for individuals to bury animal carcasses on their property, or property they rent or lease, provided these guidelines are followed. Following these guidelines does not grant permission to violate any laws.

1. Carcasses may not be infectious or otherwise contaminated.
2. Carcasses should be buried a minimum of 100 feet from any well, spring or other drinking water source. Increase the distance to 200 feet if the source serves a public water supply.
3. Burial should be a minimum of 150 feet from the high-water mark of any watercourse or body of surface water.
4. Carcasses should be buried at least 5 feet above the seasonally highest level of groundwater. In other words, locate the burial site on the highest ground available. Shallow burial is preferred, with a 3 foot cover of soil.
5. Locate away from homes, residential development and public areas such as roads and parks, to avoid potential problems with flies, odors, or other nuisances.
6. If a person proposes to operate a common burial site for others to use, regulatory approval by several state and local agencies will be required. Please consult Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health for more information.

Jeff M. Doif

Agricultural Commissioner/  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

Yana Valachovic

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