

	<b>Guidelines for Disposal of Sharps, Biological, and Medical Waste</b>	Effective:	March 01, 2006
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## 1. Purpose:

1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to identify and address sharps waste, which is composed of instruments used to puncture, cut, or scrape body parts, that when disposed of can cause punctures or cuts. Never throw treated or untreated sharps containers or sharps directly into garbage cans or dumpsters.

## 2. Scope:

2.1. This procedure applies to all technicians, clinicians and students of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine using the above instruments.

## 3. Procedure

### 3.1 Needles and Syringes

- **Containing nonhazardous materials:**
  - a. Place into a hard walled sharps container (non-red without biohazard label).
  - b. Label contents, room number and building and place in approved medical waste accumulation container or contact RUSVM Safety & Security for pick-up.
- **Containing biohazardous materials:**
  - a. Place into a hard walled sharps container (red with biohazard label).
  - b. Label with room number and building and place in approved medical waste accumulation container or contact RUSVM Safety & Security for pick-up.
- **Containing chemical carcinogens or hazardous chemicals:**
  - a. Place into a hard walled sharps container (non-red without biohazard label).
  - b. Label with a hazardous waste label, and contact RUSVM Safety & Security for pick-up as a hazardous chemical waste.

A variety of red and non-red sharps containers are available through the campus central storehouse. Contact RUSVM Safety & Security for advice on the proper

management of needles and syringes with any combination of biological, chemical or radiological materials.

### 3.2 Laboratory Glass

Laboratory glass could puncture regular waste bags and endanger waste handlers. Do not pick up broken glass with your hands. Wear cut-resistance gloves, use tongs, or a disposable broom and dustpan to pick up broken glass. Collect broken glass as carefully and completely as possible.

- **Clean or contaminated with nonhazardous materials:**
  - a. Place clean glass into a sturdy container marked “Clean Lab Glass.”
  - b. Custodial will dispose as nonhazardous waste.
  - c. See [SafetyWeb](#), “Why Didn’t the Custodian Pick Up my Trash” for more information .
- **Contaminated with biohazardous agent:**
  - a. Place into a hard walled sharps container (red with biohazard label).
  - b. Label contents, room number and building and place in approved medical waste container or contact RUSVM Safety & Security for pick-up.
- **Contaminated with toxic or hazardous chemicals:**
  - a. Place into a hard walled sharps container (non-red without biohazard label).
  - b. Label with a hazardous waste label, and contact RUSVM Safety & Security for pick-up as a hazardous chemical waste.
  - c. Contact RUSVM Safety & Security for pick-up as radioactive waste.
- **Contaminated with biohazardous agent and carcinogenic or hazardous material:**
  - a. If the chemical disinfectant for the biohazardous agent is compatible with the hazardous material, disinfect the material and place into a hard walled sharps container (non-red without biohazard label).
  - b. Label with a hazardous waste label, and contact RUSVM Safety & Security for pick-up as a hazardous chemical waste.
  - c. If the disinfectant is not compatible with the hazardous material, cover the spill with paper towels and call RUSVM Safety & Security for assistance.
- **Contaminated with biohazardous agent:**
  - a. Cover the spill with paper towels and call RUSVM Safety & Security for assistance.

### 3.3 BIOLOGICAL WASTE

Any material that once contained or now contains living organisms, or that is a product, portion, or waste of a living or once-living organism. **Biological waste that is infectious to humans must be managed and disposed of as medical waste.**

### 3.4 Animal Carcasses and Waste Products

- **Healthy animals not treated with chemicals, or biohazardous agents:**

- a. Place animal parts, tissue, waste and carcasses (small and large animals) in tightly sealed plastic bags in designated disposal containers.
  - b. Carcasses will be sent off campus to a rendering company or incinerated. Contact your department for more information.
- **Animals treated with chemical, or biohazardous agents:**

Contact RUSVM Safety & Security to develop a written handling, transportation and treatment and/or disposal procedure.

### 3.5 Blood and Body Fluids

- **Non-infectious blood and body fluids in tubes, bags, vacutainers, etc.:**
  - a. Treat with bleach (10% final concentration for at least 30 minutes) and pour into a sink drain connected to the campus sewage system. Be sure to follow the treated material with copious amounts of water. **Do not pour into a storm drain.**
  - b. Place the containers in autoclavable bags with autoclave tape and autoclave. **Do not dispose of containers of liquids in garbage cans or dumpsters.**
  - c. Dispose of autoclaved waste in solid waste container.
- **Non-infectious blood or fluid soaked materials:**
  - a. Place bandages, gauze, paper towels, etc. in autoclavable bags with autoclave tape and autoclave. **There should be no dripping or leakage of liquid from bagged waste.**
  - b. Dispose of solid autoclaved waste in solid waste container.
- **Blood, fluid or fluid soaked materials that contains chemical, or biohazardous agents:**

Contact RUSVM Safety & Security to develop a written handling, transportation and treatment and/or disposal procedure.

### 3.6 MEDICAL WASTE

Includes waste containing biological agents known or suspected of being a human pathogen. All wastes that are classified as medical waste (infectious human waste and sharps waste) must be stored, handled, transported and treated in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Act.

Contact your RUSVM Safety & Security Director Telephone # 465-4161 Extension 191 or [lnolan@rossvet.edu.kn](mailto:lnolan@rossvet.edu.kn) to develop a written medical waste handling, transportation and treatment and/or disposal procedure.