AXE VALLEY VETS
Caring for your Animals

SURGERIES

Blackford
01934 712229
Redmans Hill
Blackford
Somerset
BS28 4NG

Wells
01749 670966
23 St Cuthbert Street
Wells
Somerset
BA5 2AW

Cheddar
01934 741292
Unit 1 Saxon Court
Cheddar
Somerset
BS27 3NA

Woolavington
01278 686971
Martlands Farm
Woolavington Road
Woolavington
Somerset
TA7 8ED

Waste Policy

Axe Valley Veterinary Practice understands that it has a duty of care to ensure that:

- All waste produced in the course of veterinary work must be segregated, classified, described, packaged, labelled and disposed of in line with regulatory requirements.
- Waste is only handled or dealt with by those authorised to do so.
- Appropriate records are kept of all waste that is transferred.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous waste must be consigned from the premises that produces it except for domiciliary visits. All forms of Hazardous Waste are collected from branches by our waste contractor, Limekiln Farm Veterinary Waste Management. They provide consignment notes before any hazardous waste leaves the premises; these must be kept for three years. The types of Hazardous Waste generated by the Practice will generally fall into four categories:

- **Infectious, Clinical Waste**

  Waste containing viable micro-organisms or their toxins which are known or reliably believed to cause disease in humans or other living organisms; or waste which, following a veterinary assessment, is deemed to present a risk of infection to any animal or person that may come into contact with it.

  This may include:
  - Items used in treatment (for example swabs, gloves, blood-soaked items)
  - Animal bedding
  - Blood and body parts

  Practice policy is that this waste is segregated into **orange bags,** with **EWC code 18 02 02** printed on the side, for collection by our Waste Contractor and disposal by high temperature incineration.

- **Contaminated Sharps**

  Sharps that are contaminated with material (other than cytotoxic or cytostatic) that is deemed to present a risk of infection to any animal or person that may come into contact with it.

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RCVS ACCREDITED PRACTICE FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

RCVS ACCREDITED PRACTICE SMALL ANIMAL PRACTICE

Practice policy is that this waste is segregated into **yellow sharps containers,** which are clearly labelled on all sides with permanent marker saying **hazardous infectious sharps.** These are classified as **EWC code 18 02 02,** and collected by our Waste Contractor for disposal by high temperature incineration.

(Practice policy is that syringes are always separated from sharps and disposed of separately).

- **Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Pharmaceuticals**

Waste contaminated with cytotoxic and cytostatic pharmaceuticals (products with are toxic, carcinogenic, toxic for reproduction or mutagenic).

This may include:
- Glass bottles and vials
- Clinical items used in treatment (for example swabs, gloves, masks, aprons)
- Syringes and sharps
- Animal bedding

Practice policy is that this waste is segregated into **purple lidded containers (purple lidded sharps containers if appropriate), EWC code 18 02 07,** for collection by our Waste Contractor and disposal by high temperature incineration.

- **Chemicals consisting of or containing dangerous substances**

This may include:
- Soda lime
- Formaldehyde

This is classified as **EWC code 18 02 05,** and collected by our Waste Contractor.

NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE

Transfer notes are provided when non-hazardous waste is collected by our Waste Contractor, Limekiln Farm Veterinary Waste Management. These records must be kept for at least three years. The key types of Non-Hazardous Waste produced by the Practice are:

- **Offensive Waste**

This is veterinary waste (other than sharps) which is not hazardous or clinical, but which is unpleasant and may cause offence to the senses. This waste must have been subject to a risk assessment which

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demonstrates it does not present a risk of infection or other potential hazard to any animal or person that may come into contact with it.

This may include:

- Items used in treatment (for example swabs, gloves, blood contaminated items)
- Animal bedding, vomit, and faeces

Practice policy is that this waste is segregated into **yellow bags,** with **EWC code 18 02 03** printed on the side, and collected by our Waste Contractor. This waste in theory does not need treating and could be disposed of in landfill, but in practice our Waste Contractor disposes of it by incineration.

- **Sharps**

Sharps which have been subject to a risk assessment and are believed not to present a risk of infection to any animal or person that may come into contact with them can be disposed of in this category. They are segregated into standard **yellow sharps bins,** classified as **EWC code 18 02 02** and collected by our waste contractor. In theory these do not need to be 'treated' to be rendered safe prior to disposal; in reality our waste contractor still disposes of them by incineration.

- **Pharmaceutical Waste**

This is waste contaminated with pharmaceuticals (not cytotoxic or cytostatic).

It may include:

- Denatured controlled drugs
- Prescription only medicines
- Out-of-date drugs, returned medicines, damaged medicines
- Contaminated bottles, empty injection vials, pill containers, syringe bodies, and packaging.

Controlled drugs must be denatured or made not readily recoverable before being disposed of in this category. For Schedule 2 controlled drugs this must be done in the presence of an authorised person.
Practice policy is that this waste is segregated into large open topped **yellow Sulo bins, EWC code 18 02 08,** for collection by our Waste Contractor and incineration.

- **Animal Cadavers**

These are collected by our Waste Contractor for cremation; they are transferred and disposed of under animal by-product controls, unless the cadaver is suspected of harbouring a notifiable disease in which case collection and disposal will be arranged by AHVLA.

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- **Domestic Waste**

  This includes separatable recyclables, and non-recyclable materials which can be disposed of in municipal waste.

  Practice policy is that these forms of waste are collected by either Viridor waste management (Blackford) or Veolia waste management (Cheddar and Wells).