Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Medical Waste Disposal Guide
Laboratory Version
Revised July 18, 2013

Item[1]	Disposal Method				
	Sharps	Red Bag	Trash	Drain	EH&S
all syringes (with or without needles)	X[2]				
scalpels, razors, Pasteur pipettes	X[2]				
glass blood vials	X[2]				
glassware (including pipettes and slides)-bio	X[3]				
glassware (including pipettes and slides)-other			X[4]		
plasticware (including pipettes and tips), swabs & sticks -bio	X[5,6]	X[5,6]			
plasticware (including pipettes and tips), swabs & sticks -other			X[4]		
other lab waste (e.g., gloves, bench paper, wipes) -bio		X			
other lab waste (e.g., gloves, bench paper, wipes) -other			X		
biological liquid samples <100ml	X[7]	X[7]			
bulk biological liquids (>100ml)				X[8]	
fecal samples	X[7]	X[7]			
carcasses, animal tissue waste, bedding		X[9,10]			
tissue specimens with chemical preservatives	----->	----->	See note 11	<-----	<-----
ethidium bromide-contaminated medical waste or gels	----->	----->	See note 12	<-----	<-----
medical waste mixed with chemical or radioactive waste	----->	----->	See note 13	<-----	<-----
Lab-Specific Waste Disposal Methods for the _____Lab (type in the blanks):					

Notes:

1. "-bio" indicates items that have been in contact with biological materials (e.g., cultures, tissues, body fluids, feces, and recombinant/synthetic DNA).
   Notes: a) the "bio" category applies to waste associated with cell cultures from the ATCC and other culture collections.
   b) the "bio" category does not apply to commercial materials (e.g., fetal bovine serum) that are *certified* by the manufacturer to be sterile.
2. These waste types are specifically designated by New York State as sharps regardless of their composition or contact with infectious agents.
3. Both broken and intact "bio" glassware must be disposed of as sharps.
4. Place in puncture-resistant container (if glassware, securely seal the container and label it "GLASS") before discarding in the trash.
5. Broken or fractured "bio" plasticware must be placed in a sharps container; intact items such as bottles & flasks can go in a red bag (see note 6).
6. Items that can easily puncture or tear red bags should be either:
   a. placed in a sharps container
   b. bundled or placed in a closed container (e.g., box, can, plastic bag, or plastic bottle) and then placed in a red bag - NOTE: if the container is used for collection of waste as it is being generated (e.g., it is left on the benchtop until filled), it must be either labeled with a biohazard symbol or held in an outer container labeled with the biohazard symbol.
   c. placed in a cardboard box that is manufactured for medical waste disposal and is lined with a plastic bag (e.g., "burn bins".) Note: the box must be labeled with the biohazard symbol and cannot be re-used. The bag may be clear if the waste is generated within the Vet College complex (including the AHDC building). Note: if labeled individually in the MWTS, use the "red bag" designation.
7. Samples in glass containers must be disposed of in sharps containers; samples in plastic containers may be disposed of in red bags.
8. Biohazardous liquids must be either autoclaved or chemically disinfected before drain disposal.
9. Small quantities (<5%) may be mixed with medical waste in red bags; bulk bedding or carcass waste should be placed in red bags (black or preferably clear bags if known to be noninfectious). Contact the Waste Managment Facility (3-3288) for more information on bags and labeling.
10. Carcasses or animal tissue waste mixed with other materials (e.g., plastic containers, gloves) must be clearly identified as such.
11. Tissue specimens with chemical preservatives (e.g., formalin, phenol, alcohol) can be disposed either by:
    a. Decant the liquid and dispose it via EH&S (see http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/LRS/HWM/manual/index.cfm), then place the tissue specimens in a black or preferably clear plastic bag tagged as "bulk carcass waste" and deliver it to the Waste Management Facility for disposal in the tissue digester. The sample containers should be rinsed and disposed in a red bag or sharps container, as appropriate.
    b. Leave the tissue samples and the preservative in their containers, place them in a black or clear plastic plastic bag tagged as "preserved tissue specimens in plastic containers" and deliver them to the Waste Management Facility for offsite incineration.
12. Medical waste or gels contaminated with EtBr should be deactivated or disposed of as chemically-contaminated items and collected by EH&S. See http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/LRS/HWM/manual/ch7.cfm#7.19 for information.
13. For guidance on lab-specific waste disposal options, contact EH&S (255-8200) or the CVM Biosafety Program (253-4227)

Contact the CVM Biosafety Program for more information at 3-4227, jpj22, or http://www.vet.cornell.edu/college/bioSafety/