

Disease prevention – PPE disposal

Strategies should be used to reduce any risks when disposing of animal carcasses. Infection with a bacterial disease through broken skin (e.g. leptospirosis, melioidosis) or inhalation during procedures that generate dust or aerosols (e.g. Q fever) can be reduced through the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Carcasses should be handled as little as possible.

PPE should include

- Gloves
- Leather or rubber boots
- Clothes that cover exposed skin e.g. long-sleeved shirts and trousers
- Eye protection

Wearing a P2 mask (particulate respirator) may be considered and assessed on a case-by-case basis

Single-use PPE disposal

- Gloves, masks, overalls, and shoe protectors can be disposed in general waste as long as there is no free-flowing blood. This means blood which is flowing, dripping, oozing or able to be squeezed from, a sodden material. If items are contaminated with free-flowing blood they need to be disposed in clinical waste bins.
- Single-use PPE should be disposed of in a plastic bag and into the general waste.

Reusable PPE

- Reusable PPE such as heavy-duty gloves and boots (individual use) should be cleaned with detergent and water after use and allowed to dry.
- You may then also wipe over the surfaces of the gloves and boots with a disinfectant solution and allow to dry.

If you feel unwell after handling an animal carcass contact your general practitioner or call the 13 HEALTH information line (13 43 25 84).



Additional information

Disease prevention — human health and animal carcass disposal

<https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/public-health-disaster-management-factsheets/resource/3d157922-7613-4e23-aa0d-690091b7d0dd>

North and West Queensland weather event, February 2019 — Carcass disposal

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/carcass-disposal/_nocache

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland — Animal carcass disposal after floods

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/agriculture/articles/animal-carcass-disposal-after-floods>

Returning to a disaster-affected house or building

https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/713425/dm-returning-home.pdf

The information provided in this fact sheet has been developed with specific consideration to the situation arising from the 2019 floods in North and West Queensland, noting that this factsheet is not suitable for healthcare workers.