

**General Statutes of North Carolina**  
**Chapter 106**  
**Article 34 – Animal Diseases**

**§106-403. Disposition of dead domesticated animals.** It shall be the duty of the owner or person in charge of any of his domesticated animals that die from any cause and the owner, lessee, or person in charge of any land upon which any domesticated animals die, to bury the same to a depth of at least three feet beneath the surface of the ground within 24 hours after knowledge of the death of said domesticated animals, or to otherwise dispose of the same in a manner approved by the State Veterinarian. It shall be a violation of this statute to bury any dead domesticated animal closer than 300 feet to any flowing stream or public body of water. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove the carcasses of dead domesticated animals from his premises to the premises of any other person without the written permission of the person having charge of such premises and without burying said carcasses as above provided. The governing body of each municipality shall designate some appropriate person whose duty it shall be to provide for the removal and disposal, according to the provisions of this section, of any dead domesticated animals located within the limits of the municipality when the owner or owners of said animals cannot be determined. The board of commissioners of each county shall designate some appropriate person whose duty it shall be to provide for the removal and disposal, according to the provisions of this section, of any dead domesticated animals located within the limits of the county, but without the limits of any municipality, when the owner or owners of said animals cannot be determined. All costs incurred by a municipality or county in the removal of a dead domesticated animal shall be recoverable from the owner of such animal upon admission of ownership or conviction. "Domesticated animal" as used herein shall include poultry. (1919, c. 36; C.S., s. 4488; 1927, c. 2; 1939, c. 360, s. 4; 1971, c. 567, ss. 1, 2.)

## **Other Regulatory Information:**

The NC Department of Agriculture - Veterinary Division is the lead state agency to oversee animal disposal as regulated under existing Administrative Rules, specifically, **Subchapter 52C - Control of Livestock Diseases: Miscellaneous Provisions, Section .0100 - Diseased and Dead Animals** (See Attached)

The State Health Director and by extension the Local Health Director in each county is charged with preventing health risks and disease and promoting a safe and healthful environment according to **NCGS 130A, Articles 1-20**. To the extent that dead animals become a threat to human health, the State and Local Health Director has broad authority to investigate and act on matters to protect health.

The Environmental Management Commission protects the groundwater quality in the State of North Carolina through rules established in **15A NCAC Subchapter 2L -"Classifications and Water Quality Standards Applicable to the Groundwaters of North Carolina."** These rules establish groundwater quality standards that may not be exceeded without a permit issued under the authority of the Commission. The Groundwater Section of the Division of Water Quality is responsible for the administration and enforcement of these rules. Any surface or subsurface activity that has the potential to cause groundwater standards to be exceeded is subject to the regulatory authority of the Commission.