



ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS

DEAD ANIMAL HANDLING PROCEDURES

Ector County Administrative Policy and Procedures

Adopted by:

Ector County Commissioners' Court on December 17, 2020

For Implementation on December 21, 2020

Public Works Department
7613 W. Dunn St
Odessa, TX 79763

ECTOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

DEAD ANIMAL HANDLING PROCEDURES

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Removal of Dead Animal on A County Road or Right-Of-Way (ROW)

A. Purpose

Managing dead animals in Ector County is a growing situation and is continually a greater challenge. Throwing them on the road, in the alley, or ditch on the backside of the property has never been legal, and it is absolutely unacceptable. Today's environmental climate calls for proper and environmentally sound methods of dead animal disposal. By planning in advance how to dispose of dead animals, residents of Ector County will be better prepared to deal with environmental and health issues.

A person commits a crime under State of Texas Laws if you move or throw dead animals on County Road or Right-of-way (ROW).

The purpose of this policy, "Removal of Dead Animal on a County Road or Right-of-Way (ROW)" is to only require the citizens of Ector County to report dead animal (Domestic or Sports) initially to the Sheriff Animal Control Office, thereby eliminating the need for citizens to call several departments before appropriate action is taken. The need for any follow-up as to specific responsibilities will be coordinated and communicated between the Animal Control Office and the Public Works Department.

This policy and procedures shall be implemented by the Animal Control Office and the Public Works Department when a citizen complaint is received concerning an animal carcass on a county road or ROW. The operations of the County Environmental Enforcement Office do not include in these procedures, unless stated or directed herein.

B. Definitions

Domestic Animals: Such as dogs, cats, ferrets, and any livestock, meaning domestic farm animals, which would include cattle, equine, pig, sheep, and goats.

Large Animals: Large animals under this policy lists cattle, pig, goats, equine or horses, bovines family. Elk, and deer.

Pet Animals: Pet animals under this policy lists dogs and cats.

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Sports Animals: Such as used in major sports today, domesticated ones: horses, bovines (calves, bulls, and steers), dogs, and cocks.

TAC: Texas Administrative Code. This document is the compilation of all state agency rules in Texas.

TAHC: Texas Animal Health Commission. This is the livestock sanitary commission for the State of Texas.

TCEQ: Stands for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This is the environmental agency for the State of Texas.

C. Handling of Domestic Dead Animals

The Animal Control Office is the primary agency to handle deceased domestic and sports animals found on county rights-of-way. Domestic animals are defined

Due to Animal Control receiving information on a daily basis of lost and/or found animals, their mission is to return animals to their owners. Any dead animal found is identified to assure there is not an owner or to assure a lost report has been filed with Animal Control Office. When citizens' questions arise concerning possibly owned animals, Animal Control Office can be contacted by calling 432-335-3050.

D. Removal of Wildlife Dead Animals

Ector County has an established regulation relating to the keeping of Wild Animals in the Unincorporated Area of the County. The regulations relating to the keeping of wild animal was approved by Commissioners Court of the County on June 27, 2005. Residents of the Ector County can obtain this document online at <http://www.co.ector.tx.us/page/ector.PublicWorks>.

All complaint for the removal of wildlife dead animal shall be reported to the Animal Control first.

Nonetheless, the Public Works Department is concerned about the safety of the county's roadway system. Obstructions or objects in the roadway (such as animal carcasses) may cause drivers to make undesirable maneuvers. As such, Public Works will remove large wildlife dead animals from the county's road right-of-way, mainly from the road and shoulder areas upon review of size of the animal and only with a call from the Animal Control. Smaller wildlife dead animals will typically remain at the scene and will not be picked up unless they are causing a safety issue for the traveling public. The Animal

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Control at the Sheriff Office will remove smaller wildlife dead animals. The Animal Control can be contacted by calling 432-335-3050.

E. Handling of Stray and Dead Stray Animals

The Animal Control is responsible for stray dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep, goats and many other animals. Information about an animal missing for more than 24 hours can also be obtained from Animal Control by calling 432-335-3050. All dead stray animals shall also be reported to Animal Control.

F. Receiving Initial Complaint from Citizens

(i) General:

All dead animals, whether on county roadway or rights-of-way, shall be reported to the Animal Control first by calling 432-335-3050 before any attempt to remove. The Animal Control office will determine the appropriate department to handle the requests.

(ii) Process:

It shall be the responsibility of personnel at the Public Works Department and the Animal Control upon receiving an initial call of a dead animal on or near a county roadway to take the information from the caller as to their name, address, and telephone number, to include cellular phone, and to either handle the call or notify the appropriate department. The caller will be advised as to which department (Public Works or the Animal Control Office) will be handling the call.

Additionally, personnel must inquire whether the dead animal is on the road or if not approximately how far off the road. This information will be used to determine whether Public Works (within 25 feet of the centerline of the county roadway) is responsible for taking appropriate action on the complaint. If the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality needs to be contacted directly, this action shall be handled by the appropriate county department by calling (432) 498-4013.

The Public Works Department will remove dead stray animals from County maintained roadways and drive lanes and rights-of-way only. The department will not remove dead animals in private, undedicated, unmaintained properties in the County. However, Section G

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below describes the handling of dead animals on private ROW, easements, and other properties.

G. Handling of Dead Animals on Private Property

To aid in our daily operations in terms of labor and equipment use and to help address the concerns of the citizens residing in private properties, several disposal options are available to private owners. Those that are allowed by the State of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Ector County Environmental Enforcement Department: burning, commercial solid waste service, landfilling, and Ector County Disposal Service.

(i) Burning:

TCEQ rules allow animals to be burned when burning is the most effective means to control the spread of a communicable disease. The animal must be burned until the carcass is thoroughly consumed. The cover requirements described in 30 TAC Chapter 330, Section 136(b)(2) should be adequate for burial of farm and ranch animals in most cases. Some diseases are reportable, and you are required to contact the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Department at (432) 498-4013 and the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242 prior to disposing of animals with these diseases. TAHC can also provide a list of reportable animal diseases.

When burning, do not do so in an area where a nuisance or traffic hazard would be created.

Suggested TCEQ Setbacks for Burning

- *Adjacent properties* - Downwind of, or at least 300 feet (90 meters) from, occupied structures.
- *Weather conditions* - If possible, burn during the day when the wind speed is > 6 mph but < 23 mph. Monitor the fire, and complete the burn the same day.

(ii) Commercial Solid Waste Service:

Commercial solid waste service is defined in this policy as the picking up of dead animals on a daily basis by the owner and delivering them to a waste management company for processing, or by calling the company to come and pick -up the dead animal for processing, or whichever

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method the company defines in their service. Residents will be responsible for the cost of this service.

(iii) Landfilling:

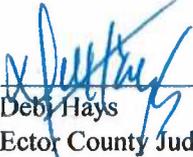
Picking up the dead animal and depositing in the local landfill is a practice that has been used by some residents for many years. This option is most commonly used for dead animal disposal due either to the occasional death of a large animal or to the catastrophic death of many animals. If landfilling is the chosen method of dead animal disposal, the resident should check to confirm that the local municipal solid waste landfill site receives these animals. Residents will be responsible for the cost of this service.

(iv) Ector County Disposal Service:

The Ector County Public Works Department is willing to pick up dead animals in the following categories with a fee. Typically, the disposal of dead animals is rated by the weight of the animal. The table below presents the fee for county pickup on private properties.

Animal Type	Location Index	Pick-up Days	Collection and Disposal Fee
Pet Animals	On Private Property	Monday - Friday	\$40 (plus \$25 per additional animal)
Pet Animals	On Private Property	Saturday & Sunday	\$60 (plus \$45 per additional animal)
Large Animals	On Private Property	Monday - Friday	\$80 (plus \$65 per additional animal)
Large Animals	On Private Property	Saturday & Sunday	\$100 (plus \$80 per additional animal)

NOTE: For animal carcasses on private property (over 25 feet from the centerline of the county roadway), the Public Works Department does not remove the dead animal. If an animal is reported dead in these properties, it is the responsibility of the owners to handle it and dispose it appropriately by calling a local company for the removal of the dead animal. The resident will be responsible for the cost of the removal. The County's typical roadway right-of-way is 50 feet, twenty-five feet on each side of the centerline of the county roadway.



Debby Hays
Ector County Judge

12-17-2020
Date

 12-17-2020
Eddie Mancha
Chief Deputy of Sheriff

Date:

 12/17/20
Evans Kessey
Director of Public Works

Date:

Prepared: Ector County Public Works Department

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Public Works Services Index and Contact Information

Information & Customer Service Desk: 432-381-0098 (Option 0) - Requests for service and information

24 Hour Emergency Road Damage: 432-631-3485 | 432-631-2442 | 432-234-2387 | 432-631-0831

- **Alley Maintenance:** 432-381-0098 (Option 0)
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
Contact us if debris is blocking the alley way or if there are potholes or other obstructions in the alley
- **Abandoned Property and Environmental Cleanup:** 432-498-4013
- **Blind Intersections:** 432-381-0098 (Option 0 or 3) | 432-631-1230
Reporting of intersection obstruction or site distance problems
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
- **County Parks Inspection:** 432-381-0098 (Option 3) | 432-631-1230
Inspection of community buildings after rental or use
- **County Parks Mowing:** 432-381-0098 (Option 3) | 432-631-1230
Mowing around the community buildings and designated playgrounds
- **County Parks Rental:** 432-498-4000 | 432-498-4040
Rental of county community buildings at West Odessa, Gardendale, and South Odessa
- **Dead Animal Removal:** 432-335-3050 | 432-381-0098 (Option 0)
All dead animal (including wildlife) initial complaint: 432-335-3050
All stray animal initial complaint: 432-335-3050
The caller will be advised as to which department (Public Works or Animal Control) will be handling the call.
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** 432-368-3546
This facility is operated by the City of Odessa and is open to the public.
- **Illegal Trash Dumping (on public right-of-way):** 432-498-4013 | 432-381-0098 (Option 0)
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
- **Impact Attenuators and Guard Rails:** 432-381-0098 (Option 3) | 432-631-1230
Impact attenuator repair, guardrail requests
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
- **Littering from Vehicles:** 432-498-4013 | 432-381-0098 (Option 0)
Report litterbugs
- **Material or Item Recycle:** 432-368-5730
This facility is operated by the City of Odessa and is open to the public. Product pricing varies for recyclables
- **Permits – Excavation, Lanes Closures, Pipelines, and Water Lines:** 432-498-4040 | 432-381-0098 (Option 2)

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- **Permits – ROW/Easement Abandonment, Street/Alley Closure:** 432-381-0098 (Option 1)
- **Pothole Patching and Repair:** 432-381-0098 (Option 0)
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
- **Recycling, Information & Education:** 432-368-5730
- **Road Repair:** 432-381-0098 (Option 0)
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
- **Roadway Debris Cleanup:** 432-381-0098 (Option 0) | 432-498-4013
- **Roadway Hazardous Material Spill and Cleanup:** 432-498-4013
- **Schlemeyer (Airport) Field Building Maintenance:** 432-332-4504 | 432-889-6853
County airport hangar fixtures and general airport building maintenance
- **Schlemeyer (Airport) Field Mowing:** 432-381-0098 (Option 3) | 432-631-1230
County airport runway and taxiway mowing
- **Schlemeyer (Airport) Hanger Door Repairs and Maintenance:** 432-234-2387 | 432-889-6853
- **Schlemeyer (Airport) Field Runway and Taxiways:** 432-381-0098 (Option 4) | 432-631-2442
County airport runway and taxiway pavement condition
- **Shoulder Maintenance (on public rights-of-way):** 432-381-0098 (Option 4)
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
To repair potholes or remove excessive gravel on the public rights-of-ways shoulders
- **Street Closures:** 432-381-0098 (Option 2)
Road closure information
- **Street Lights and Flashing Beacons:** 432-381-0098 (Option 3) | 432-631-1230
If you see a street light that's out, flickering, or on all day, please notify Public Works immediately, so we can repair it and help keep your neighborhood safe. Please be sure to give the nearest address or any nearby businesses, landmarks, or any other information that might be helpful in locating the problem.
- **Street Name Signs and Regulatory Signs (Stop Signs, Yield Signs, etc.):** 432-381-0098 (Option 3)
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
Request maintenance, repair, or new installation of street name signs and regulatory signs on County streets and roads.
- **Street Names and Street Renaming:** 432-381-0098 (Option 1)
- **Weed/Grass Cutting (on public rights-of-way):** 432-381-0098 (Option 3)
Online maintenance request and interactive map is available at: <https://talktomycity.com/search/Ect01>
If grass in the public right-of-way is causing a problem and obstructing site distance. Otherwise, grass is cut on a regularly schedules basis. Check grass cutting schedules by calling 432-631-2442.