

DISPOSAL OF EXPIRED DRUGS

DISPOSAL OF NARCOTIC AND CONTROLLED DRUGS

The College regularly receives calls from its members about the disposal of narcotics and controlled drugs.

The following are some suggestions put forward by the Office of Controlled Substances of Health Canada for the disposal of narcotic and controlled drugs:

1. Obtain an AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN form from the manufacturer, if they will supply these forms, and then return the controlled or narcotic substance to the manufacturer for credit. There is no need to obtain an authorization from the Office of Controlled Substances if this method is used. However, the veterinarian must make a record of the material that has been returned to the licensed dealer and keep these records for a period of two years.
2. Obtain authorization from the Office of Controlled Substances for the destruction of the controlled or narcotic substance. The destruction of the narcotic or controlled substance must take place in the presence of another health care professional.
3. Incineration is a method of destruction.
4. The Office of Controlled Substances has suggested that chemical adulteration of the narcotic or controlled substance could be produced by mixing these materials with sodium hypochloride (bleach) or with an inert substance such as chalk, sawdust or cement. This mixture may then be disposed of by a means that conforms with the local municipal regulations. It is important when using a chemical adulteration method that the narcotic or controlled substance cannot be reconstituted from the mixture.
Note: The Office of Controlled Substances has stated that they were unaware of any potential hazards from the above methods of chemical adulteration of controlled or narcotic substances.
5. Narcotic and controlled drug material cannot be left with a licensed pharmacist unless the narcotic and controlled drug material has been destroyed and is no longer serviceable or useable.

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DISPOSAL OF NON-CONTROLLED DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

1. Incineration
2. There are several commercial companies that will dispose of outdated veterinary drugs and supplies. Before the outdated or unwanted drugs can be picked up by these companies, a generator permit must be issued by the Ministry of the Environment. The commercial companies have indicated that they will help the veterinarian in the process of obtaining a generator permit.