End of Life Disposal Options For Horse Owners

As an owner of an equine, the time may come when you must make the difficult decision to euthanize your horse due a number of reasons. Management and disposal of deceased animals is a normal part of raising and owning livestock, and proper equine disposal is important whether the cause of death was expected or unexpected.

Maryland Law requires disposal of a deceased equine within 48 hours, and there are several ways this can be done:

- Composting
- Burial
- Cremation
- Rendering
- Incineration

For more information about these types of disposal, please visit the University of Maryland Extension website at: bit.ly/1Qkxlwn

Make sure to check with state and local authorities before selecting a disposal method as some methods are not permitted in particular zones. State and local agencies that may be concerned include but are not limited to:

- Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- County Animal Control
Organizations which may have resources to help with the cost of euthanasia and disposal:

Maryland Fund for Horses (MFFH): http://www.mdfundforhorses.org application for health care assistance (which includes euthanasia and disposal costs)

One Horse at a Time (OHAAT): onehorseatatime.org (mostly for emergency assistance)

Important Contacts:

Agape Pet Services, Boonsboro, MD - Provides equine cremation services with gentle, respectful transportation 24-7. contact@agapepetservices.com; 301-432-0431

Can-Do Disposal, York, PA - Provides equine carcass removal services to much of central and northeastern MD 717-779-6090