

4730 - DESTRUCTION OF WILD HORSES AND BURROS AND DISPOSAL OF REMAINS

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- 1. Excerpts from 1986 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia

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.01 Purpose. This Manual Section describes the authorities, objectives, and policies that guide the destruction of wild horses and burros and disposal of remains.

.02 Objectives. The objectives of the Bureau relating to this Manual Section are:

A. To destroy old, sick, or lame wild horses and burros humanely.

B. To suspend destruction of healthy unadopted excess wild horses and burros while the Bureau continues the moratorium on the provision in the Act to destroy these animals in the most humane and cost-efficient manner possible.

C. To dispose of remains of wild horses and burros in accordance with Federal, State, or local laws.

.03 Authority. (See BLM Manual Section 4700.)

.04 Responsibility. (See BLM Manual Section 4700.)

.05 References. (See BLM Manual Section 4700.)

.06 Policy. (See BLM Manual Section 4700.)

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.1 Humane Destruction of Wild Horses and Burros. Whenever it is necessary to destroy a wild horse or burro, the destruction shall be accomplished using methods judged acceptable for euthanasia of large animals by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia. Acceptable methods include gunshot into the brain and injections of barbiturates or a mixture of chloral hydrate, magnesium Sulfate, and sodium pentobarbital. (See Appendix 1 for excerpts from the 1986 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 188(3):252-268.)

.11 Old, Sick, and Lame Animals.

A. Captured Animals. When necessary, the humane destruction of Captured wild horses and burros shall be carried out by veterinarians or other trained individuals using methods acceptable to the AVMA.

B. Free-Roaming Animals. Free-roaming wild horses or burros on the public lands that are found to be old, sick, or lame may be destroyed as an act of mercy by firearm by the Authorized Officer or by an individual approved by the Authorized Officer.

.12 Healthy Animals. The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act directs that excess wild horses and burros for which there is no adoption demand be destroyed in the most humane and cost-efficient manner possible. However, the Bureau has maintained a moratorium on such destruction since 1982, and Congress expressly prohibited use of Fiscal Year 1988 and 1989 funds for destruction of healthy wild horses or burros. Unadopted healthy excess wild horses and burros shall not be destroyed but shall be maintained by BLM or its agents, preferably on sanctuaries located on private land.

.13 Public View. The AVMA Panel on Euthanasia stated in its 1986 report: "The distress experienced by people when observing euthanasia or death in any form is an emotional response dependent on the background of the observer. . . . This distress may be minimized by perfection of the technique of euthanasia." Individuals involved in destruction of wild horses and burros must be trained in acceptable euthanasia techniques and must, in consideration, of observers' sensibilities, destroy animals away from public view whenever possible.

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.2 Disposal of Remains of Wild Horses and Burros. The remains of captured wild horses or burros shall be disposed of in accordance with State or local sanitation laws. In the absence of sanitation laws, the remains shall be disposed of in the manner customarily used locally.

.21 Prohibition on Sale of Remains. The remains of wild horses and burros shall not be sold or transferred for any type of consideration.

.22 Transporting Remains. The remains of wild horses and burros shall be transported in trucks or trailers constructed in a manner that prevents a view of the dead animals.

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EXCERPTS FROM 1986 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 188(3):252-268.

	Site of Action	Classification	Comments
Barbituric Acid derivatives	Direct depression of cerebral cortex, subcortical structures and vital centers; direct depression of heart muscle	Ultimate cause of death is hypoxemia due to depression of vital centers	Unconsciousness reached rapidly; no anxiety; no excitement period; no motor activity; best to administer by intravenous or intracardiac administration
Chloral hydrate and chloral hydrate combinations	Direct depression of cerebral cortex, subcortical structures and vital centers; direct depression of heart muscle	Ultimate cause of death is hypoxemia due to depression of vital centers	Transient anxiety; unconsciousness occurs rapidly; no motor activity
Gunshot or captive bolt into brain stunning	Direct concussion of brain tissue	Hypoxemia due to depression of vital centers	Instant unconsciousness; motor activity may occur after unconsciousness

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TABLE 2 - Characteristics of agents and methods of euthanasia

Agent	Safety for personnel	Ease of performance	Rapidity	Economic considerations	Tissue change	Efficacy	Species suitability	Remarks
NONINHALANTS								
Barbiturates	Safe except human abuse potential; DEA controlled substance	Animal must be restrained; personnel must be skilled in IV injection	Rapid onset of anesthesia	Relatively inexpensive	Drug residues	Highly effective when appropriately administered	All species	Acceptable IV (see text)
Mixture of chloral hydrate, MgSO ₄ , pentobarbital	Safe except human abuse potential; DEA controlled substance	Animal must be restrained; personnel must be skilled in IV injection	Rapid onset of anesthesia	Relatively inexpensive	Drug residues	Highly effective when appropriately administered	Large animals, IE, horses and cattle	Acceptable IV
Captive bolt, gunshot and stunning	Safe, but some concern for mechanical injury; gunshot can be especially dangerous	Requires skilled individuals; however, skills easily developed	Rapid	Inexpensive	Trauma of brain tissues; others unchanged	Highly effective	Usually applied in larger agricultural animals, but can be rabbits guinea pigs	Acceptable (see text for limitations)

Department of the Interior
DEPARTMENTAL MANUAL

Security

Part 446 Law Enforcement

Chapter 5 Defensive Weapons

446 DM 5.1

5.1 Purpose. This chapter provides for expansion of those requirements established in 446 DM 1.3, 446 DM 2.2B, 2.2D, 2.2E, and 2.2F. It establishes uniform policy concerning the use of force and defensive weapons by all employees of the Department of the Interior who are engaged in law enforcement duties.

5.2 Policy. The amount of force used, when it is required to take a person into custody, will only be that which is absolutely necessary to effect the arrest. Each officer is responsible for his acts and their results.

A. A firearm may be discharged only as a last resort when in the considered opinion of the officer there is imminent danger of death or serious injury to the officer or to another person.

B. The firing of warning shots is prohibited.

C. Firing from a moving vehicle is prohibited.

D. Chemical mace should be used only to apprehend dangerous violators of the law, or persons who present a danger to themselves or others. Care should be taken to afford first aid to any person upon whom mace has been used to assure there is no serious damage, particularly to the eyes.

5.3 Authority to Carry Firearms.

A. Authorizing Official. In accordance with statutory authority and established guidelines, the Secretary of the Interior may authorize designated Department employees to carry firearms. For the efficiency of operations, and maintenance of proper records, this authority may be delegated to bureau heads or their designated representatives.

B. Employees Permitted to Carry Firearms. Only Department law enforcement officers are authorized to carry firearms. Law enforcement trainees may carry weapons only when receiving firearms training. Bureaus may permit other employees to carry firearms when functions or circumstances related to their official duty necessitates such permission.

5.4 Required Qualifications.

A. Initial Qualifications. Prior to proficiency certification by a qualified instructor, all Department employees authorized to

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Chapter 5 Defensive Weapons

446 DM 5.8

5.3 Inspection of Weapons. There will be an inspection of all weapons on a frequently scheduled basis to assure that all are serviceable and being maintained with proper care.

All weapons found to be unserviceable will be immediately replaced by serviceable weapons while repairs are being made. Individual bureaus will establish procedures for weapons inspection and maintain appropriate records.

5.9 Actions to be Taken When Firearms Are Used.

A. It will be the responsibility of each law enforcement officer who discharges his weapon to immediately notify his supervisor. A report of the circumstances will also be prepared and forwarded to the supervisor.

B. Upon receipt of a report that a weapon has been discharged, without injury to any person, a law enforcement supervisor will investigate the incident and submit a report of his findings and recommendations, through appropriate channels, to the bureau's Chief Law Enforcement Officer.

C. Where the incident involves injury or death to a person, the bureau Chief Law Enforcement Officer will promptly, through appropriate channels, notify the Chief, Division of Enforcement and Security Management, AMO.

D. Upon notification that an officer has caused injury or death with a firearm, the person with designated responsibility will place the officer on administrative leave or assign the officer to administrative duties pending a thorough investigation of the incident by the appropriate supervisory law enforcement officer. A report of the investigation, will be forwarded to the bureau Chief Law Enforcement Officer, who will determine what action will be taken and forward his recommendations to the bureau/office head. Copies of all reports will be forwarded through the bureau's Chief Law Enforcement Officer to the Division of Enforcement and Security Management, AMO.

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Chapter 5 Defensive Weapons

446 DM 5.4A

carry firearms will be required to receive a minimum of four hours training in the safety, handling, firing, and legal/moral aspects of the use of weapons.

B. Semiannual Qualifications. A proficiency test for each type of weapon will be conducted by all bureaus on a semiannual basis. Department law enforcement officers must attain a score of 70 percent or better to be qualified to carry a firearm (see 446 DM 5.7A). Proper records will be established and maintained on firearms proficiency by each bureau. Any officer who fails to qualify should be reassigned, pending qualification. To duties that do not require use of firearms. If an officer fails to qualify after retesting, he will be permanently reassigned to a position not requiring use of firearms.

5.5 Types of Firearms.

A. Bureaus will specify and standardize the type of firearms and ammunition to be used by law enforcement officers of that bureau (note 446 DM 2.2F).

B. Neither automatic weapons nor rifles will be used for routine law enforcement purposes.

C. Sidearms, rifles, and shotguns used for law enforcement purposes should be uniform as to make and model.

5.6 Carrying Firearms. Law enforcement officers in uniform will carry firearms and said weapons should not be concealed except when, due to weather conditions, an outside garment is worn that will cover the weapon. These garments must be designed so that the weapon is readily accessible.

5.7 Proficiency Training,

A. Minimum Qualifying Score. All bureaus will require a minimum score of 70 percent on an approved qualification course as the basic score for certification as proficient in the use of police firearms. A score of less than 70 percent will be unsatisfactory for purposes of the required semiannual weapons qualification.

B. Firearms Instructors Firearms instructors so designated by bureaus within the Department will be certified according to standards established and approved by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FBI, or National Rifle Association.

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Illustration #1
 Form 9260-16
 (September 1987)
 (formerly 8360-4)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

INCIDENT RECORD

1. Office			2. Office Code				3. Case No.					
4. Location of Incident		5. Twp.	Rge.	Sec	6. Date Oc- cured	Mo.	Day	Yr.	Day of Week	7. 24 Hour Time	Hrs.	Min.
8. Unauthorized Use/ Incident Code		9. Nature of Incident				10. How Reported						
11. Reported by		12. Address(Include zip code)				13. Phone (Include area code) Home Business						
14. Received by		15. When Received Date Time			16. When Investigated Date Time							
17. Investigated by		18. When Cleared Date Time			19. Radio Call Sign				20. Disposition			
21. INVOLVED PERSONS		22. ADDRESS include zip code		23. Phone include area code		24. SEX	25. RACE	26. AGE	DATE of BIRTH			

28. Details of Incident (if additional space is needed attach extra sheets)

29. PROPERTY STOLEN OR DAMAGED		30. ESTIMATED VALUE		RECOVERED 31. Date		32. Value						

Investigated by (Signature and Date)

Approved by (Signature and Date)
