

SMALL RUMINANT EUTHANASIA

NIAA Animal Care Council Panel

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SMALL RUMINANT EUTHANASIA

- Euthanasia of small ruminants may be necessary for reasons ranging from traumatic injury to incurable disease to old age
- Challenges:
 - Remote locations of many sheep operations
 - Availability of veterinarian
 - Practicality of using a veterinarian



WHAT IS APPROPRIATE?

- Depends on:
 - Location
 - Situation
 - Aesthetics
 - Training
 - Diagnostic Needs
 - Disposal Options



“ACCEPTABLE METHODS”

- Barbiturates & barbituric acid derivatives
- Less attractive euthanasia method in production settings
 - Cost and disposal concerns
 - Availability of a veterinarian to administer the drug
- Injectable barbiturates have the advantage of a rapid and smooth effect if administered correctly.



“ACCEPTABLE METHODS WITH CONDITIONS”

- Gunshot (with appropriate firearm and ammunition)
 - Advantages:
 - Low cost and availability
 - Quick and effective
 - Ability of owner to euthanize without having a veterinarian present
 - Disadvantages:
 - Safety issues
 - Aesthetics
- Captive bolt with exsanguinations or KCl or MgSO₄ injection
 - Disadvantages:
 - Aesthetics
 - Slower death
 - Restraint



RECOMMENDED POSITIONING FOR GUNSHOT OR CAPTIVE BOLT PLACEMENT

