



Managing Biohazardous Waste

A COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO MANAGING BIOHAZARD WASTE

There are approximately 93,000 veterinarians working at 30,000 clinics across the country caring for 72 million dogs, 82 million cats and 7.3 million horses. The animal and livestock industry alone generates close to 1 billion syringes annually.

Infectious or biohazard waste disposal costs for veterinarians likely will climb in all states as regulatory agencies work to adopt heightened regulations to meet federal code.

The EPA offers the following guidelines for veterinarians:

- No untreated infectious waste, regardless of amount, may be disposed of as solid waste, i.e. sharps containers cannot be thrown into a trash can.
- Shipping papers are required to accompany all untreated waste that travels on any public road including transportation from any satellite premises to the main facility for on-site treatment.
- Use the specified packaging requirements as outlines in 49 CFR 17.24. The requirement allows flexibility with the selection of packaging material.

Many veterinarians manage their biohazard waste by contracting with waste collection companies. Collection fees can cost hundreds of dollars per month depending on a clinic's location and their volume of waste. Rural clinics tend to pay higher fees than suburban or large city clinics. Veterinarians can be charged per month or per pickup. There can be other charges as well such as fuel charges or documentation fees.

As these fees continue to rise, many veterinarians are passing these costs directly onto their clients. A veterinarian invoice for services can include either a flat fee or an itemized fee for biohazard waste designated as "Medical Waste Fee".

INVOICE			
			FOR
DUE	INVOICE #	DATE	TERMS
4/27/2013	31974	4/27/2013	Due upon receipt
PATIENT	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Bogey	Subtotal		0.00
Bogey	Annual Exam	1	56.98
Bogey	Bordetella ("Kennel Cough") Vaccine	1	31.76
Bogey	Medical Waste Fee	1	1.13
Bogey	Lyme Disease Vaccine	1	38.62
Bogey	Medical Waste Fee	1	1.13
Bogey	Leptospirosis ("Lepto") Vaccine	1	27.84
Bogey	Medical Waste Fee	1	1.13
Bogey	Nail Trim - Simple	1	5.41

As shown in this invoice, there are 3 itemized charges of \$1.13 listed as "Medical Waste Fee". Many clinics charge a \$5.00 flat fee for waste management.

SIMPLIFYING WASTE MANAGEMENT USING A COST EFFECTIVE DEVICE

Until now, there hasn't been a cost effective alternative for veterinarians to manage their biohazard waste which leaves them no choice but to contract with a collection service. Renewing service contracts means increased fees thus driving up operating costs for clinics. These increased fees are then ultimately passed on to clients.

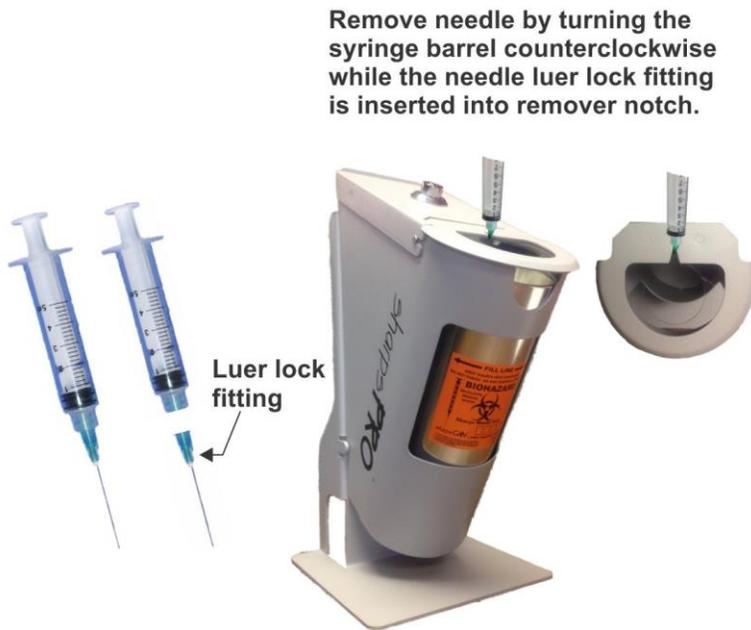
Medical Engineering Development Solutions, Inc. (MEDS) recently introduced the sharpsPRO™ Model 100, a safe and effective device that processes biohazard waste at the point of generation. A vet clinic or hospital can quickly and safely process sharps waste on-site simplifying waste management and creating a safer work environment and eliminating the need for a collection service.

The sharpsPRO™ consumes a small amount of energy, 200 Watts, as compared to traditional incinerators of sharps waste and produces zero toxic emissions. The Model 100 operates a low dry heat process that melts and sterilizes sharps waste. The sharpsPRO™ also includes a comprehensive cradle-to-grave tracking system for audit and compliance purposes. The sharpsPRO™ is easy to use and requires no maintenance. Because the processed biohazard waste becomes sterilized and non-hazardous, it can be recycled or thrown away in the standard trash.

The sharpsPRO™ simplifies the management of biohazard waste by eliminating the storage of bulky secondary containers and the automated tracking system eliminates all paper work. Waste can be conveniently and safely processed. Scheduling or waiting for a waste collection pick-up are no longer necessary.

Medical waste fees collected by a veterinarian clinic can quickly pay for the cost of the sharpsPRO™. Return on investment can be accomplished in just a few months.

ON-SITE PROCESSING IS SIMPLE AND EASY



Process in 3 simple steps.

STEP 1

Once the sharpsCAN is full, SCAN the barcode label located on the sharpsCAN container.

STEP 2

Insert the sharpsCAN™ container in the sharpsPRO. A single sharpsCAN can be processed 4 different times.

STEP 3

Press the "START" button. The process will finish in approximately 2 hours.

Place the green NON-HAZARDOUS sticker on sharpsCAN and recycle or throw away in standard trash.

First, the needle portion can be removed from the syringe barrel by using the needle remover built into the sharpsCAN™ holder device called the Accessory Unit. Once full, the sharpsCAN™ is removed from the Accessory Unit, scanned by the built-in barcode reader and then placed into the sharpsPRO™. The entire heating and cooling process takes only 2 hours to complete.

The sharpsCAN™ can be processed up to 4 different times. This means that well over 1000 needles can be processed in a single sharpsCAN™.



The luer lock is made of polypropylene which melts and encapsulates the needles. The needles are sterilized.



This sharpsCAN contains over 1000 needles which have been processed in the sharpsPRO. The height of the processed material measures 3" from the bottom of the sharpsCAN.

CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION

Low energy consumption.

200 Watts



Fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions are eliminated.



Dioxin gas emissions are eliminated.



The sharpsPRO™ provides a platform for sustainability making veterinarians and their staff environmental stewards.

The sharpsPRO™ operates a low energy dry heat process which drastically reduces the carbon footprint associated with the processing of biohazard sharps waste. Also since collection services are no longer needed, fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions from service trucks are eliminated. Toxic emissions from traditional high heat incinerators are also eliminated.

CONCLUSION

Since the use of secondary containers, the preparation of these containers as well as the need to fill out manifest tracking forms are no longer necessary when using the sharpsPRO™, the management of medical sharps waste is greatly simplified and this saves time and money.

The sharpsPRO™ provides a convenient, simple and cost effective method of managing biohazard waste and creates a safer work environment. By using the sharpsPRO™, veterinarians can be proud of the fact that they are doing their part to be environmental stewards by recycling waste and reducing their carbon footprint.