

Willed Animal Body Donation Program

Montana State University – WA – MT Cooperative Program in Veterinary
Medicine

Overview

The WA-MT Cooperative Program in Veterinary Medicine at Montana State University accepts the compassionate donation of deceased companion animals for educational purposes. These donations play a critical role in training future veterinarians. By consenting to donate, owners contribute directly to the education of veterinary students, while honoring the life and legacy of their pet. Donations are used exclusively for educational purposes within the veterinary curriculum and are handled respectfully by faculty and students.

Eligibility & Donation Criteria

- Eligible species include dogs and cats. Other species (e.g., exotic pets) may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Animals must be legally owned by the donor, and the donor must have legal authority to consent to donation.
- Animals must be deceased or humanely euthanized under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.
- Euthanasia must be performed using AVMA-approved protocols to ensure tissue suitability and respect for humane treatment.
- Must not have documented evidence of zoonotic pathogens.
- Donated animals must not have undergone prior postmortem procedures or decomposition.

**Department of
Microbiology &
Cell Biology**

Owner Consent & Veterinary Confirmation

To complete a donation, the owner or their designee must sign a Willed Body Donation Consent Form, which includes:

- Acknowledgment of legal ownership and authority.
- Permission to release the animal's remains to the veterinary program.
- Agreement to the educational use and respectful disposition of the remain.
- Participating veterinarians confirm the animal meets health and euthanasia standards and coordinate transportation with the program.
- Veterinary clinics may also coordinate donations on behalf of clients with prior written consent.

Transport & Handling

Animals must arrive within 12 hours of death or be refrigerated until transfer. Program staff will coordinate drop-off windows or pickup at the clinic.

Final Disposition

Following educational use, donated animals will be cremated communally. Ashes are not returned.

Gratitude & Memorial

While no financial compensation is offered, each donation is treated with respect and professional care. We acknowledge the generosity of every donor and their family.

**Montana Veterinary
Medicine Program**
in cooperation with
Washington State University

2155 Analysis Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

P.O. Box 173610
Bozeman, MT 59717
www.vetmed.montana.edu

Tel 406-994-2922
Email vetmed@montana.edu