

Standards relating to the Methods of Destruction of Animals

(Notice of the Prime Minister's Office No. 40 of July 4, 1995)

Revisions: Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 59 of December 1, 2000

Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 105 of November 12, 2007

Part I. General Principles

When it is necessary to perform Destruction of an animal, the Manager and Destruction Performer shall understand the physiology, ecology, habits, etc. of the Animal to Be Destroyed, and, based on the principle of respecting the dignity of life, endeavor to use a method that does not cause Pain or Distress for the animal, and shall endeavor to prevent the Animal to Be Destroyed from causing an infringement on the life, body or property of humans or from fouling or damaging the living environment of humans.

Part II. Definitions

In these Guidelines, the meanings of the terms set forth in the following items shall be as prescribed respectively in those items:

- (1) Target Animal—An animal targeted by these Standards, which is any of the animals set forth in Article 44, paragraph (4) of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (Act No. 105 of 1973)
- (2) Animal to Be Destroyed—A Target Animal for which Destruction is to be performed
- (3) Destruction—An act of causing death of an Animal to Be Destroyed
- (4) Pain or Distress—The mode of suffering, fear, anxiety, depression, etc. caused by pain from nociceptive stimulation and central nervous excitation, etc.
- (5) Manager—A person who manages the keeping Animal to Be Destroyed, the facility for performing Destruction and the Animal to Be Destroyed
- (6) Destruction Performer—A person pertaining to the Destruction of an Animal to Be Destroyed

Part III. Method of Destruction of an Animal to Be Destroyed

The method of Destruction of an Animal to Be Destroyed shall be the method of causing the Animal to Be Destroyed to lose consciousness and stopping its cardiac function or lung function in an irreversible manner by a chemical or physical method, using a method that minimizes the Pain or Distress of the Animal to Be Destroyed as much as possible, or shall be any other normal method that is socially accepted.

Part IV. Auxiliary Provisions

1. When keeping an Animal to Be Destroyed, endeavors shall be made to take appropriate measures in compliance with the purport of the Standards relating to the Care and Keeping of Animals at home, etc. (Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 37 of 2002), the Standards relating to the Care and Keeping of Animals for exhibition (Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 33 of 2004), the Standards relating to the Care and Keeping of Laboratory Animals and Reducing pain of laboratory animals (Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 88 of 2006), and the Standards relating to the Care and Keeping of Industrial Animals (Notice of the Prime Minister's Office No. 22 of 1987).
2. The person performing the Destruction shall endeavor to give considerations in compliance with the purport of these Guidelines also when performing the Destruction of an animal other than a Target Animal.