

## Appendix AM.6

### Storage & Disposal of Sharps and Pharmaceutical Waste

Below are some guidelines on the safe storage and disposal of sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

#### DO's

- Prior to disposal, all waste must be stored safely in a secure, rigid container (glass containers are not suitable) marked with appropriate warning symbols.
- 'Sharps boxes' can be obtained from independent companies licensed for the safe disposal of sharps and clinical and pharmaceutical waste. Such companies supply their disposal boxes via Agricultural Suppliers, Veterinary Surgeons, or Local Health Authorities.
- Needles and sharp instruments must be put in the sharps box together with any glass containers that will fit. Other glass containers and medicine containers must be kept in a suitable secure container awaiting disposal.
- The licensed waste disposal companies collect full boxes from Veterinary Practices and Agricultural Suppliers periodically. The charge for a box will include the price of collection from these collection points. If your waste is moved in this way, i.e. on a carrier collection round, the licensed carrier will be responsible for all the paper work (a schedule and consignment note).
- Always read the label – many manufacturers provide disposal information on their Health and Safety data sheets.
- All staff should be trained so that they are aware of waste management procedures.
- Try to reduce the quantity of waste generated if possible. This can be achieved by purchasing only the quantity of medicine needed for immediate use thus ensuring that there is no surplus product exceeding its use by date.

#### DON'Ts

- Bury
- Burn
- Bin

**IF IN DOUBT CONSULT YOUR VETERINARY SURGEON**