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## **Necropsy Policy**

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Revision Date: 2/8/2017

Effective Date: 6/24/2012

### **PURPOSE**

To establish written protocols and procedures that identify when a necropsy shall be performed.

### **POLICY**

A necropsy shall be ordered in cases where an animal dies unexpectedly while in the custody and care of MCAS. Additionally, an officer may request a necropsy for an animal that is the subject of an animal abuse, neglect or cruelty investigation.

### **PROCEDURE**

All necropsies shall require authorization by MCAS management.

#### **Field Investigation Procedure**

A necropsy may be requested as part of an investigation by MCAS, or at the request of an investigation conducted by a local police department or by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

- The body of the subject animal shall be impounded and handled as evidence by MCAS.
- The body of the deceased animal will be appropriately packaged and sent by courier, or transported by MCAS.
- The necropsy report completed by an approved vendor and shall be added to the case file at MCAS and shared with local police department or sheriff's office, when appropriate.
- The investigating officer shall complete all appropriate paperwork.
  - The paperwork shall accompany the animal at all times.
  - The appropriate paperwork includes the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory form, MCAS impoundment form, animal record form, and any MCAS or police reports if available, and chain of evidence form.
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#### **Shelter Procedures**

In the event that an animal dies unexpectedly while at MCAS, the following procedure shall be followed:

- The staff member who discovered the animal shall immediately notify a member of the Animal Health team.
- The Animal Health team will determine if a necropsy should be ordered, based on the recent medical history of the deceased animal and any other pertinent information.

#### **Necropsy Service**

Necropsy procedures shall only be performed by vendors approved by MCAS to perform this service.

**Approved by: Jackie Rose, Director of Animal Services**

