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## Disposal of Household PIMW (Potentially Infectious Medical Waste)

Illinois has not created a formal policy on the disposal of syringes used by individuals at home. However, the Illinois EPA provides the following guidance:

If a person chooses to place PIMW (which, for home animal care purposes, includes used and unused syringes, needles, lancets, and other sharps, along with any animal waste) in with their trash, the following guidelines help protect the trash haulers, landfill workers, and others who may come in contact with the waste.

- First, the medical waste should be placed in a sturdy, puncture-proof container such as a sharps container from the pharmacy or a laundry detergent bottle.
- When the container is full, the lid should be put on the container and taped in place.
- The container should then be marked "Do Not Recycle" and then placed in the regular trash.

Unfortunately, you may not bring your PIMW to Family Pet for disposal, as our licensing restricts us to disposal of only the waste generated in our own facility.

Some sharps containers specifically designed for syringe/needle/lancet disposal, which you may purchase from a pharmacy or medical waste disposal company, also include either a mail-in or drop-off return program. Please check with your local pharmacy for details.