

# DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS

## for the Cremation of Companion Animals

### Definitions/Terminology

**Private cremation:** A cremation procedure during which only one animal's body is present in the cremation unit during the cremation process.

**Partitioned cremation:** A cremation procedure during which more than one pet's body is present in the cremation chamber and the cremated remains of specific pets are to be returned. Due to a number of factors and by virtue of multiple pets being cremated within the same unit at the same time, active commingling of cremated remains will occur.

**Communal cremation:** A cremation procedure where multiple animals are cremated together without any form of separation. These commingled cremated remains are not returned to owners.

**Cremation process:** The heating process that reduces human or animal remains to bone fragments, followed by the processing that reduces bone fragments to unidentifiable dimensions.

**Commingling:** Mixing of cremated remains.

- **Active Commingling:** Commingling that occurs between animals during the cremation and/or retrieval process when multiple animals are cremated together at the same time.

This type of comingling can be minimized with effective partitioning but it is impossible to assert that it can be eliminated entirely. This type of comingling cannot, by definition, occur with a private cremation.

- **Residual (Incidental) Commingling:** Unavoidable incidental comingling between cremations that occurs despite a best effort to recover all cremains from each cremation. This will occur to varying degrees with any type of cremation. This definition is the minimal type of comingling that occurs even in cremations performed in succession. (human cremations and private pet cremations).

*For the proposed definitions below, state definitions and regulations may preclude members from treating anatomical pet remains as anything other than medical waste. Please check with your state EPA.*

**Anatomical Pet Remains:** A portion of pet's remains not discarded as medical waste, but for which reverent cremation is desired for that body part, (i.e. an extremity or necropsied head.) and for which reverent disposition is not otherwise forbidden by law.

**Medical Waste:** Waste derived from the medical treatment of humans, or animals, or from biological research.