INDIANA STATE POLICE	***STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE*** State Form 39870(R/S-06)	Reference Number ENF-011
	Subject Destruction of Severely Injured Animals	
	Special Instructions Replaces ENF-011 dated September 15, 2025	Effective Date **October 29, 2025**

I. PURPOSE

Establish guidelines for the destruction of severely injured animals found along the roadways.

II. POLICY

Severely injured animals that cannot possibly survive and require destruction shall be destroyed according to the following procedures and documented on a Firearms Discharge – Animal report in BlueTeam.

III. PROCEDURES

A. The responding officer shall attempt to contact the owner or responsible person of the animal to obtain a decision of disposition.

B. If the owner cannot be located and destruction of the animal is necessary, the destruction shall take place only if the area provides the highest level of safety in order to prevent injury to the public and the officer and to prevent damage to other property.

C. If the animal cannot be safely destroyed at the location, the officer shall utilize the most efficient, humane means to remove the animal to a place where the animal may be safely destroyed protecting both the officer and the public from injury by the animal.

D. The animal shall be destroyed, using either the Department-issued primary or secondary duty handgun, or the issued rifle as defined in TRA-001, by placing a shot to the head in such a manner as to penetrate the brain (see illustrations).

1. Dependent on the situation, the preferred weapon would be the issued primary or secondary duty handgun. If the injured animal prevents the officer from delivering a shot from a relatively short distance the issued rifle may be used. Regardless, the officer shall use an appropriate backstop. Consideration should also be given to the safety of the public and property affected by possible fragmentation, ricochet, etc.

a. In the case of a deer, place the shot in the ear canal with a handgun, or

b. In the ear canal or chest (vital organs) with the Department-issued rifle;

NOTE: Officers should use their best judgment in determining which issued weapon to utilize.

E. In the event the animal is suspected to be rabid, the shot should be directed at the base of the skull and into the spinal column, or directed into the heart.

F. The appropriate county or state department of transportation shall be notified by the Regional Dispatch Center of the location of the carcass so it can be picked up.

G. Whenever an officer uses a firearm to destroy an animal, the officer shall complete a Firearms Discharge – Animal report, per ENF-012.

H. This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant Department regulations, rules, policies and procedures.