

RESOLUTION #8—2021
Regular Annual Session
Submitted by [Petition](#)

(see [attachment](#) for related information from AVMA)

Reclassifying Ventilation Shutdown Methods as Not Recommended

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) classify all forms of ventilation shutdown (VSD and VSD+) as “Not Recommended” for poultry and pigs within the AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals: 2019 Edition.

Statement About the Resolution

Ventilation shutdown (VSD) is the cessation of natural or mechanical ventilation of atmospheric air in a building where animals are housed. VSD+ includes action to increase the ambient temperature and/or adding carbon dioxide to the building. With the buildup of heat and moisture, the animals die slowly of hyperthermia and/or suffocation. Classifying VSD and VSD+ as “Not Recommended” would help prevent the poultry and pig producers industries from taking advantage of the AVMA Depopulation Guidelines’ inclusion of these inhumane techniques except in truly extreme and life-threatening situations, such as infectious animal disease or zoonotic infection outbreaks. This classification would also support closer coordination and concurrence with State and/or USDA/APHIS officials before performing any form of ventilation shutdown. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) does not recognize VSD in any form in its recommendations for killing animals for disease control purposes¹.

There are many preferred and permitted methods for animal depopulation listed in the AVMA’s depopulation Guidelines and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) Guidelines Depopulation Recommendations that may be used in an emergency.

We believe the AVMA did not intend for any form of ventilation shutdown to be used except in extremely unusual and timely life-threatening situations. By amending its 2019 Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals, the AVMA can clarify this position and ensure animals are not unnecessarily subjected to the inhumane death caused by ventilation shutdown methods. There are several mechanisms the AVMA may use to issue this clarification and reclassification that do not require a complete reassessment or rewriting of its Depopulation Guidelines, including providing a clarification memorandum, issuing a position statement, or through amendment of the guidelines.

For the reasons listed above, we ask the AVMA to join other veterinary and animal welfare organizations and reclassify, in their depopulation guidelines, all forms of ventilation shutdown as “Not Recommended.”

Financial Impact: None.

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #2	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval				
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...	...to the BOD for consideration by the Panel on Depopulation	...to the BOD for consideration by the Panel on Depopulation		
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				