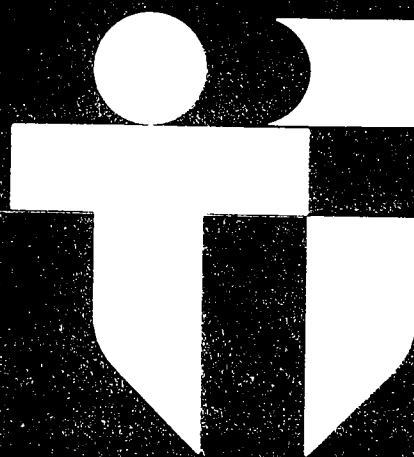


EMERGENCY EUTHANASIA

OPERATIONAL GUIDE For Animal Care And Control Agencies



AMERICAN HUMANE

EMERGENCY EUTHANASIA

Occasionally it is necessary to destroy an injured animal without the humane equipment of an animal shelter. This should be done only when the animal is so seriously injured that it cannot be spared suffering in any other way.

The written consent of the owner should be obtained. But, if the owner cannot be located quickly or a veterinarian is not available, the animal should not be allowed to suffer. In such a case you should obtain the written agreement of witnesses that destruction appears to be the only humane alternative, but remember that these are lay opinions and, as the humane representative you are assuming full responsibility for the decision.

A confident, gentle approach will reassure an injured animal as well as bystanders. Avoid destroying animals in the presence of children or crowds because of both the danger and the psychological effect.

SHOOTING

Large Animals

A well-placed bullet ends life humanely. Most wild and domestic animals may be instantly destroyed if shot correctly (see diagrams on reverse of this sheet). Restrict the use of .22 caliber bullets to animals the size of smaller dogs and cats. Larger wild and domestic animals require a .38 caliber (or larger) bullet for effective euthanasia. High velocity rifle cartridges are not recommended. Most bullets can pass completely through an animal's head and deflect from other surfaces. Extreme caution must be taken to prevent any chance of ricochets. (There are also specially designed weapons for humane stunning which have safeguards.) Place the muzzle of the weapon as close as possible to the vital spot. Since the animal may move its head, be patient and shoot only when properly positioned.

For unusually large animals with thick hides, such as a rhinoceros or whale, consult zoo specialists for proper gauge and placement of shot to avoid causing unnecessary suffering.

Meat Animals

Food animals, domestic or wild, should have their throats cut immediately after shooting. This enables the carcasses to bleed thoroughly. Prompt action often salvages some of the economic value of the carcass. In addition, it ensures the humane death of larger animals.

INHALATION

Small Animals And Birds

Shooting is less practical for birds and smaller animals. These may be destroyed as follows:

Place the bird or small animal in a paper bag or suitable box. Saturate a small sponge or wad of absorbent cotton with 2 to 4 tablespoons of chloroform or ether. Caution—Ether is extremely flammable. Place cotton in container with the bird or animal and close. Some air is necessary to the action of the anesthetic and prevents suffocation. After 10 minutes, open container, resaturate pad and repeat procedure. Since ether and chloroform are anesthetics as well as lethal agents, depending on the amount given, and since under emergency conditions it is not always possible to judge the amount, never assume the animal is dead. Always take it to the animal shelter where expert observation is available.

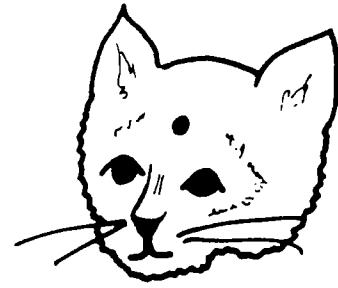
A less satisfactory emergency measure is to strike sharply the back of the head of a small animal or bird—breaking the neck or crushing the skull. Use a blunt, heavy object and hit hard.

"Safety First"



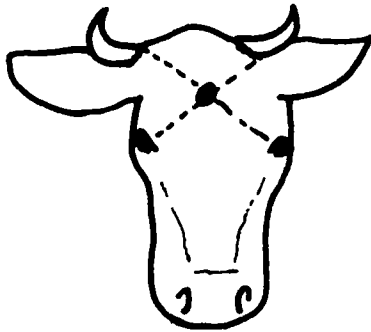
DOGS:

Aim at intersection of imaginary lines crossing from ears to eyes, well up on forehead.



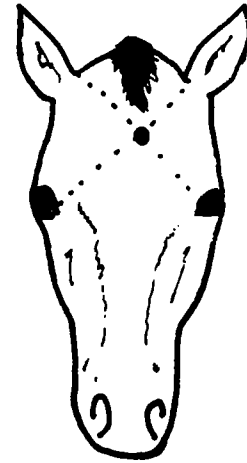
CATS:

Aim at intersection of imaginary lines crossing from ears to eyes, well up on forehead.



CATTLE:

Aim at the center of head, 2/3 of the way up on the forehead. (Calves, slightly lower.)



HORSES:

Aim at intersection of imaginary lines crossing from ears to eyes, well up on forehead.



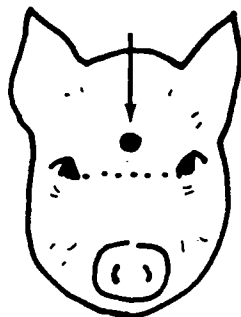
SHEEP AND RAMS (HORNED):

Approach from the rear. Aim between the horns, toward the mouth.



SHEEP AND RAMS (WITHOUT HORNS):

Approach from the rear. Aim down on the top of the head, just back of the eyes.



SWINE:

Aim at the center of the head, approximately 1" above the level of the eyes.



GOATS:

Approach from the rear. Aim between horns and toward the mouth.

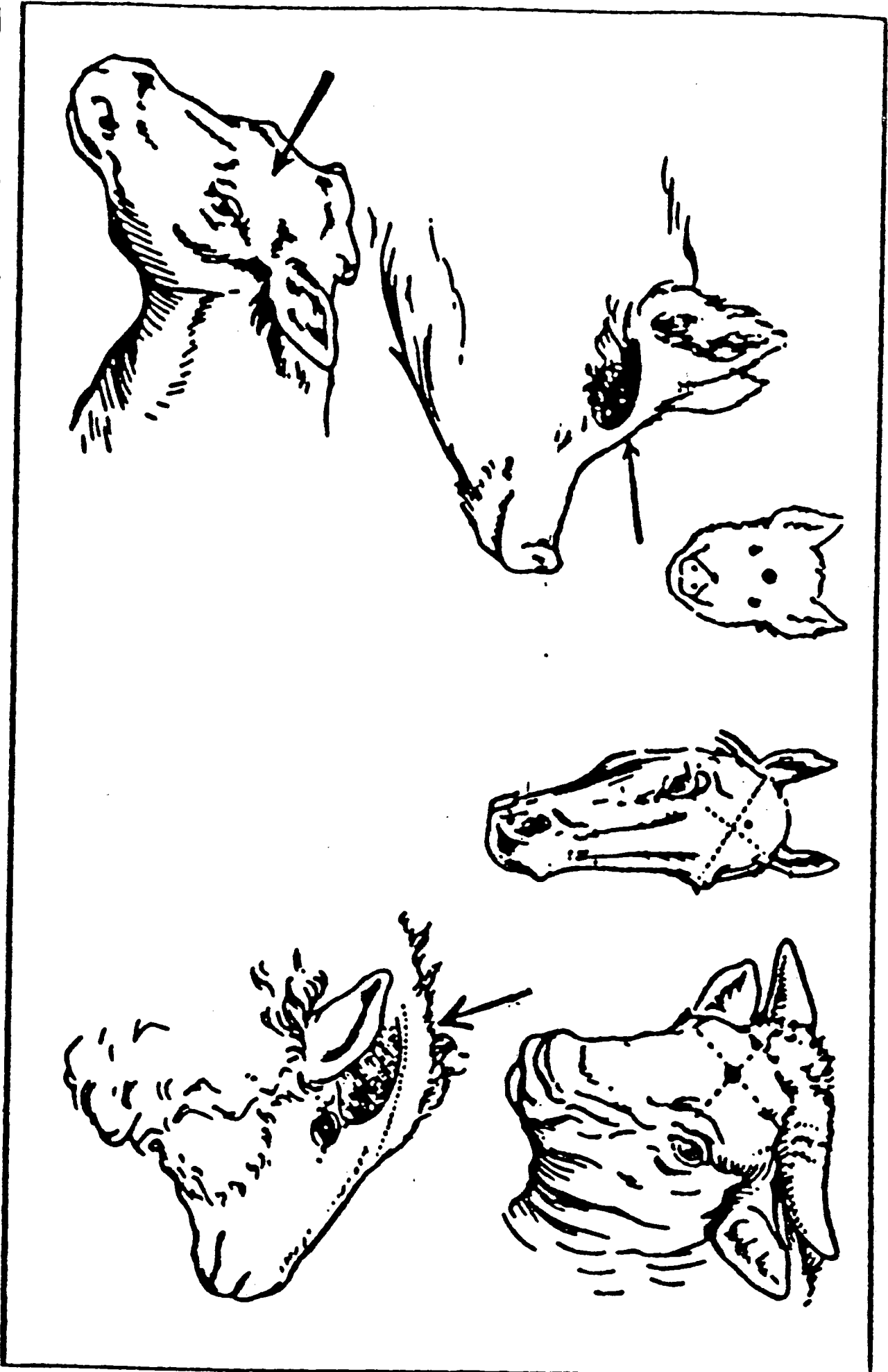
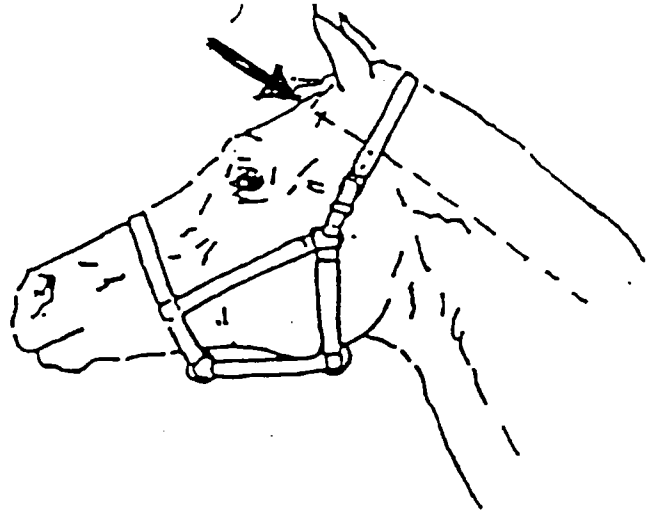
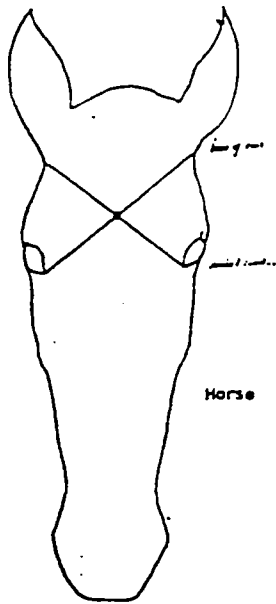
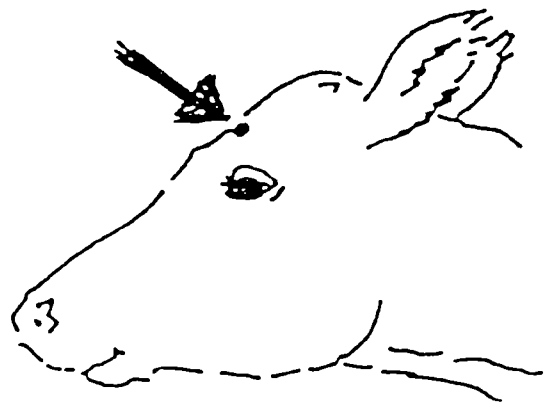
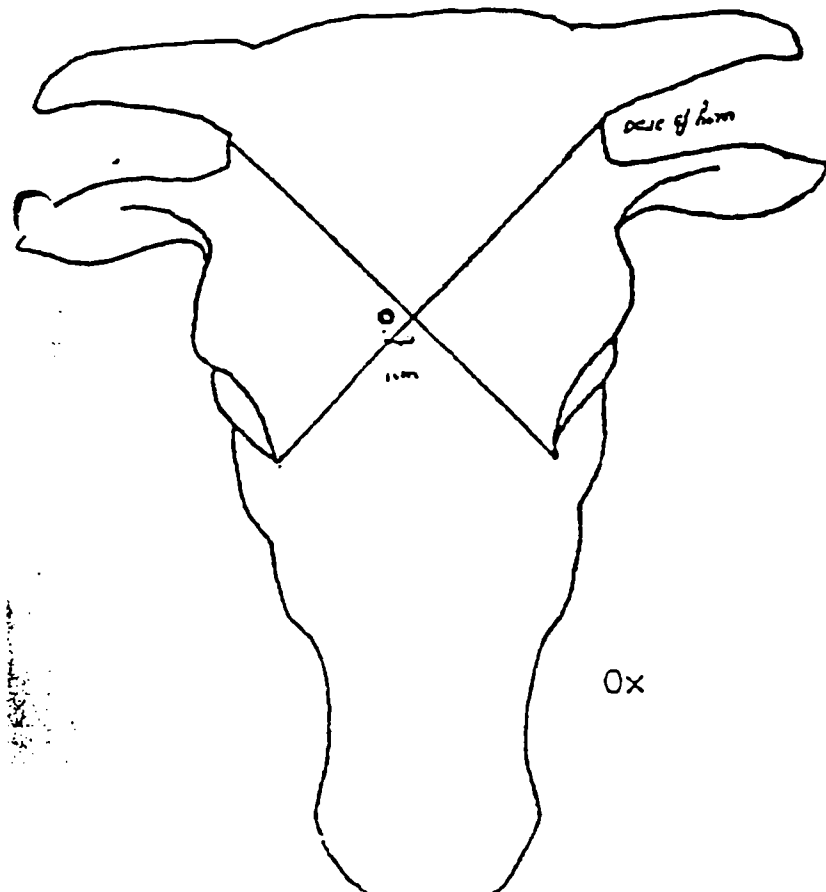


Figure 1—Correct position for euthanasia of livestock by use of a captive-bolt gun or firearm.

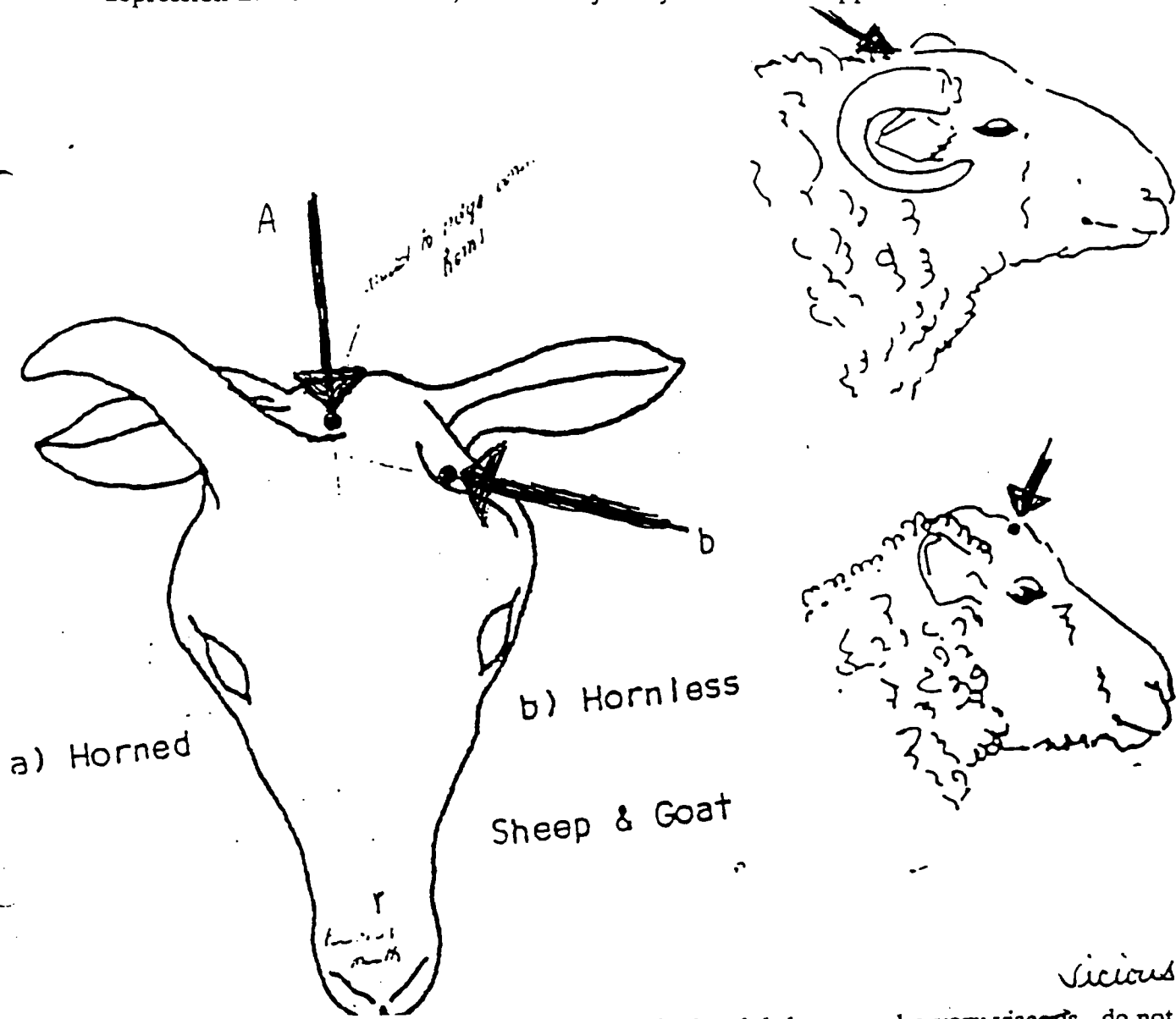
Destruction of the Horse: Form an X by starting at the Inside corner of the eye to the base of the opposite ear, do again from other eye. AT the intersection of the two lines is the entry point of the bullet. The gun should be pointed in such a direction for the bullet to travel on the midline of the neck, parallel to the first 10 inches of the top of the neck, starting behind the ears. To prevent injury, stand to the side of the horse's head to shoot, horses will either fall straight down or forward.



Destruction of Cattle: Form an X by starting at the inside corner of the eye to the base of the horn (or where the horn should be), do again from other eye. At the intersection of the two lines go half an inch to either side, this is the entry point of the bullet. The gun should be pointed in such a direction for the bullet to travel on the midline of the neck, parallel to the first 10 inches of the top of the neck, starting behind the ears. Stand five feet in front of the animal to shoot, if this does not place you in danger.

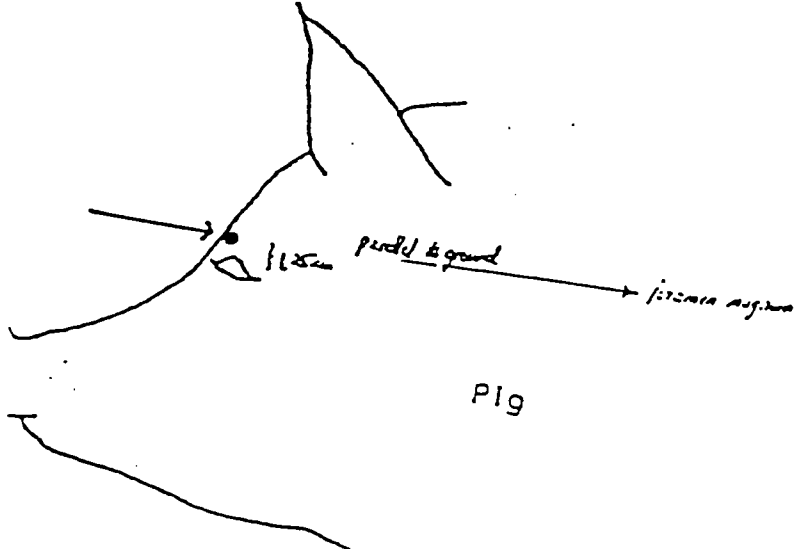


Destruction of Sheep and Goats: There are three accepted sites for these species. First, find the same entry point used in cattle and aim for where the neck attaches to the bottom of the head. Second, the bullet should enter from behind the base of the horns, on the center line, with a path towards the corners of the lips. Third, the entry site at the depression in front of the ear, with a trajectory towards the opposite shoulder.



vicious

Destruction of Hogs: Caution should be exercised, adult hogs can be very vicious, do not get where it can bite you. The entry point of the bullet should be one inch above the eyes, on center line. The trajectory should be parallel with the lips.



Destruction of Dogs: Form an X by starting at the inside corner of the eye to the base of the opposite ear, do again from other eye. At the intersection of the two lines is the entry point of the bullet. The gun should be pointed in such a direction for the bullet to travel down the center of the neck.

