

Cleaning Up Pet Waste

There are many factors contributing to water pollution, but pet waste is one that can be easily prevented. Listed below are several simple ways to properly dispose of pet waste:

- Always clean up after your pet
- Use a scooper, bag or shovel to pick up pet waste (Remember to put waste in a bag and seal it before placing in the trash. It is best to double-bag the waste.)
- Waste from cats should also be contained. Provide covered litter boxes for outdoor cats. (Dispose of the kitty litter properly.) DO NOT flush kitty litter down the toilet.
- DO NOT compost or dump pet waste into storm drains or ditches
- DO NOT leave pet waste on streets, sidewalks or other impervious (hard) surfaces where it can wash into storm drains, ditches or waterways.

Cleaning up after your pets is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3:

1. Bring a bag.
2. Clean it up.
3. Dispose of waste.

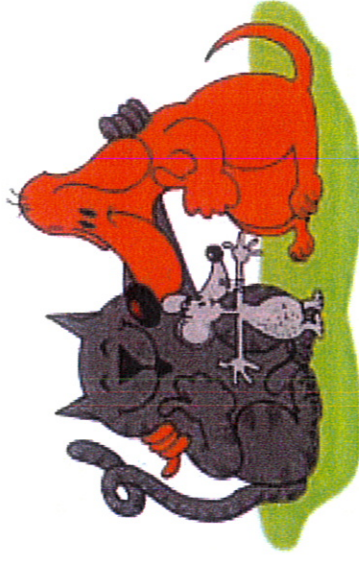


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REDWOOD FALLS

Municipal Separate
Storm Sewer System

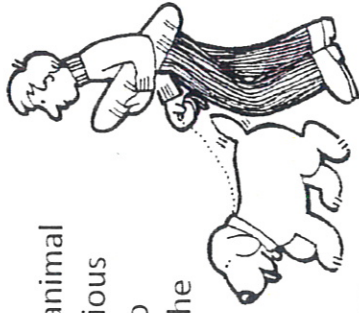
Pet Waste and Water Quality



Partners
Keeping
Our
Waters
Clean

Are You Polluting Our Water Ways?

Pollution from pet waste provides a very serious threat to our environment. Although it is not the most noticeable form of pollution, animal waste left on the ground can be washed into storm drains from rain and melting snow and ice. Once it has been washed into storm drains, the waste flows to rivers, lakes, oceans, and even drinking water. With its high concentration of bacterial and disease-causing



microorganisms, animal waste poses a serious pollution threat to everyone within the community.

In order to keep animal waste from contaminating our community, anyone who walks a pet should properly dispose of waste by picking it up, wrapping it, and either placing it into the trash or flushing it UNWRAPPED down the toilet.

Pet owners and keepers are required to properly and immediately dispose of any pet waste deposited on any public or private property not owned or possessed by that person. The only exception to this is those people with assistance animals (i.e. seeing eye dogs).

Did You Know?

Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into storm sewers by rain or melting snow. Storm sewers usually drain directly into our lakes and streams, carrying many pollutants along with the water.

When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can kill fish.

Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Overly fertile water becomes cloudy and green – unattractive for swimming, boating and fishing.

Perhaps most importantly, pet waste carries diseases which make water unsafe for swimming and drinking. Some of the diseases that can be spread from pet waste include:

- **Salmonellosis** – the most common bacterial infection transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include headache, fever, muscle aches, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- **Campylobacteriosis** – a bacterial infection. Symptoms include diarrhea in humans.
- **Toxocaris** – roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include fever, rash, vision loss, and cough.

Did you know there are more than 600 dogs licensed in Redwood Falls.

Consider this: A dog drops an average of 3/4 pounds of waste daily. That means that more than 450 pounds of dog waste is general in Redwood Falls each day!

When it rains, bacteria from pet waste can wash directly into storm drains and drainage ditches and eventually into our waterways – UNTREATED!

Clean Water is Important to All of Us!

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than sixty percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens, pet waste, residential car washing, and failing septic tanks.

All of these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why Do We Need Clean Water?

Have a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water – and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground waters clean.