

PROPER MANAGEMENT OF PET WASTE

The Problem

Animal waste may not immediately seem like a stormwater issue, but it is one of many small sources of pollution that can significantly impact water quality and even human health. Animal waste contains two primary pollutants—nutrients and pathogens—that can harm local waterways. When animal waste enters water bodies, it decomposes and releases nutrients that fuel excessive algae and weed growth, turning the water murky, green, and foul-smelling and often making it unsuitable for swimming, boating, or fishing. Additionally, the pathogens—harmful bacteria and viruses—can render waters unsafe for recreation and have been linked to severe illnesses in humans.

Animal waste doesn't just disappear, so the best way to prevent these issues is to clean up after your pet every time and dispose of the waste properly!



Be Prepared

Picking up after your pet is simple if you're prepared. Carrying a plastic bag on every walk ensures you have the necessary equipment to clean up after your dog, and disposing of the waste in the nearest trash can completes the task effortlessly. For added convenience, compact, refillable bag dispensers, such as Bags on Board®, can be attached to your dog's leash. Many parks and recreational areas also provide courtesy bags and disposal boxes specifically for dog waste, and if your favorite park doesn't have one, consider asking your town to install it. To help protect water quality, avoid letting your dog relieve itself within 200 feet of a water body, and never dispose of dog waste in a storm drain.



Pet Waste at Home

For meat-eating pets like dogs, cats, and other animals, disposing of their waste in the garbage rather than in a compost pile is important because the parasites, bacteria, and viruses found in their waste are not easily destroyed during the composting process and can pose a risk to humans.

It is common courtesy to clean up after your dog during walks, but it's also a good idea at home because pet waste can transmit diseases through contact with soil. Children playing outside and adults who garden are particularly at risk.



The City of Redwood Falls Chapter 10 Public Nuisance ordinance requires cleanup of pet waste.

Ordinance 54, Fourth Series, passed 12-6-2016

Additional Pet Waste Management Information:

<https://www.doodycalls.com/health-resources/>

<https://www.ecolandscaping.org/03/developing-healthy-landscapes/ecological-landscaping-101/the-scoop-on-dog-waste/>

