

Keep Pet Waste Out of Our Water

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PET WASTE?

When owners neglect to pick up after their animals, pet waste gets left behind and can wash into storm drains. The waste then becomes a pollutant in the runoff that drains into local waterways; lakes, rivers, estuaries, bays or the ocean. On land, as well as in the water, the waste left by our pets can spread harmful diseases through numerous types of bacteria and parasites.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- An average size dog dropping contains three billion fecal coliform bacteria.
- In addition to fecal coliform, dogs can also be significant hosts of both Giardia and Salmonella.
- According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, 40% of U.S. households include at least one dog. The association's statistics also show the growth in pet ownership: Americans owned 54.6 million dogs in 1996 and 68 million dogs in 2000.
- Those numbers add up to a lot of kibble. If all dog owners also owned and used a pooper-scooper, there would not be a problem. But several studies have found that roughly 40% of Americans don't pick up their dog's feces.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean?

- Always clean up after your pet.
- Carry a plastic bag to pick up your pet's waste.
 - Reuse old bags: grocery, sandwich, newspaper, produce and bread bags to pick up and contain pet waste.
 - Keep a supply of bags near your dog's leash.
 - Tie bags onto the leash if you don't have a pocket or pack
- Do not throw pet waste near a storm drain; use a trash can. Pet waste can also be flushed down a toilet, but please don't flush the bag.
- Make sure to dispose of pet waste in a sealed bag so it doesn't spill during trash collection.
- Encourage other pet owners to be responsible.

Report suspicious dumping or unusual substances coming from storm drains call 318-441-6231.

