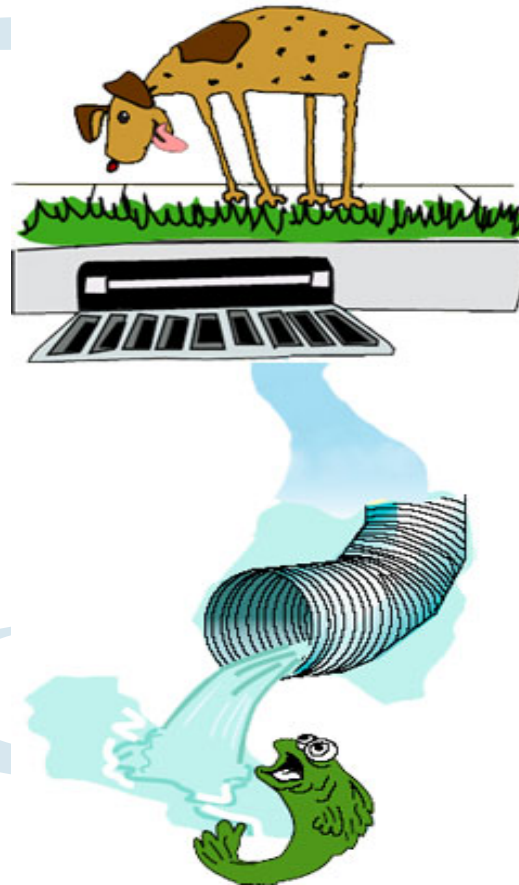


## Resourceful Links

Please check these links for great ways to keep our water free and clear of pet waste!

- ◆ <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/index.html>
- ◆ <http://www.marc.org/Environment/Water/homeowners.htm>
- ◆ <http://www.stormwaterok.net/GCSA-PetWaste102606.pdf>



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This project is partially funded by US EPA Region 7, through the Department of Natural Resources (minigrantG08-NPS-12), under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

**HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT PROTECTING OUR  
ENVIRONMENT?**

**Pet Waste: Water Quality  
And Your Health**

*The scoop is on us!*

## Is Your Pet Polluting Our Waterways?

Pet waste is a health hazard and a storm water pollutant. Stormwater runoff washes bacteria from pet waste directly into waterways.

Bacteria, parasite and viruses contained in pet waste are a health risk to other animals and people, especially small children. Fecal coliform bacteria is particularly found in the feces of warm blooded animals. High levels of this bacteria indicate that water may be unsafe for human contact.



Nutrients in pet waste also encourage weed and algae growth. This nutrient-rich water is cloudy, green, unattractive, and unhealthy for fishing, boating, swimming, and most importantly, drinking. When pet waste decays, it uses up oxygen and releases ammonia which is fatal to fish and other aquatic life.



**FACT:** A single gram of dog feces can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.

## Cleaning Up After Your Pet

Pet waste is one of the easiest to prevent forms of storm water pollution. Listed below are several easy ways to properly dispose of pet waste:

- ◆ DO NOT flush pet waste down the toilet, compost it or dump it into storm sewers or ditches
- ◆ DO NOT leave pet waste on streets, sidewalks or other impervious surfaces where it can wash into storm drains, ditches or waterways
- ◆ Install a pet waste digester on your property
- ◆ Waste from cats should also be contained. Provide covered litter boxes for outdoor cats. Make sure to dispose of the kitty litter properly
- ◆ Bury waste in a hole that is at least 5" deep and away from gardens, ditches, storm drains and waterways
- ◆ Utilize free pet waste stations and supplies in city and county parks
- ◆ 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's best to double bag the waste
- ◆ ALWAYS CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET!!

## Are You Risking Our Health?

When pet waste is left on the ground or disposed of improperly, water quality in our creeks and waterways suffers and has the potential to lead to health concerns. Pets, children who play outside, and adults who garden, are at the highest risk of infection from pathogens found in pet waste. Flies also spread diseases found in pet waste.

Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans include:

- ◆ Campylobacteriosis-a bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.
- ◆ Toxoplasmosis-a protozoan parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects such as mental retardation and blindness if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy; also a problem for individuals living with a suppressed immune system.
- ◆ Salmonellosis-The most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Typical symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.
- ◆ Pet waste can also contain e.coli bacteria, roundworms, giardiasis, tuberculosis, gastroenteritis and cryptosporidiosis.