

Pick Up The POO!



*PET WASTE IS A HEALTH HAZARD
AND A WATER POLLUTANT.*

*PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS AND
YOUR HEALTH.*



Did you know:

Stormwater runoff in the City of Wichita Falls is not treated, but goes directly into our streams and creeks. Water washing over the land can pick up an array of contaminants that can run off into our waterbodies either directly or through our storm sewer systems. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that pollution from this runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the United States. Everyday personal actions you take can have a significant impact on the water quality of our local streams and creeks. That is why it is important to ensure that pollutants such as pet waste as well as soaps, dirt from washing cars, automotive fluids, trash, garbage and chemicals do not end up in the storm drains.

Are you polluting our waterways?



Water Quality:

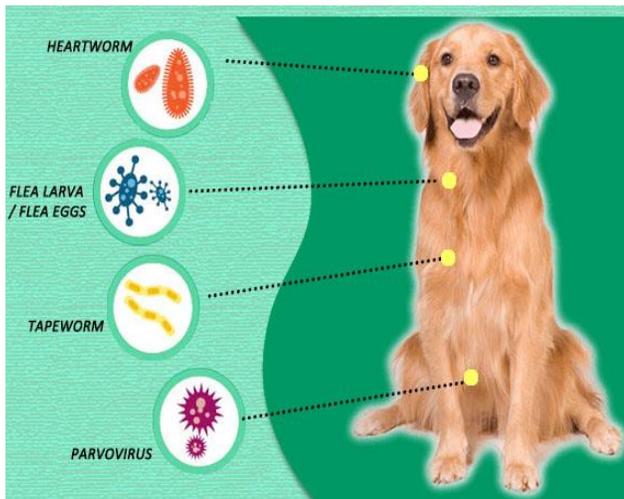
As it specifically relates to pet waste, the risk of diseases as well as the organic matter and nutrients contained in it can degrade water quality. The decay of the pet waste in our waterways uses up dissolved oxygen and releases ammonia. This process in warm water temperatures of summer can kill fish and other aquatic life.



Therefore, properly managing pet waste is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our surface waters. Proper individual actions can result in significant water quality improvements when carried out by the majority of citizens. Fortunately, unlike other forms of stormwater pollutants, individual citizens of our community can easily and economically manage pet waste.

Additionally, pet waste does not make good fertilizer. It can actually be harmful to your lawn, causing burns and unsightly discoloring. Beyond your grass, it has been estimated that a single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans. Dog feces are one of the most common carriers of the following diseases:

- Heartworms
- Whipworms
- Hookworms
- Roundworms
- Tapeworms
- Parvovirus
- Corona
- Giardiasis
- Salmonellosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Campylobacteriosis



What you can do:

- Always clean up after your pet and dispose of the waste in the trash in a sealed or tied plastic bag. Commercial scoopers can also be purchased to make proper disposal even easier. Some are disposable and come with biodegradable, sealable bags. Check pet stores and catalogs for more information.



- Encourage your neighbors and other pet owners to clean their pets' waste. It's easy, and it's an important part of the responsibility of owning a pet.

What you should not do:

- Don't dispose of pet waste in a catch basin, storm drain, or on the street.
- Don't use pet waste as a fertilizer. The microbes in pet waste does far more harm than good.
- Don't add pet waste to a compost pile. The pile will not get hot enough to kill the disease-causing organisms.

***For a healthy
environment and
unpolluted
waterways:
Always Pick Up The
POO!***



For more information about preventing stormwater pollution please visit <http://www.wichitafallstx.gov/1558/Storm-Water-Management> or call the City of Wichita Falls' Water Pollution Division at (940) 761-7670 or (940) 761-7832.