

Spring is here and it is as important as ever to make sure dog waste is cleaned up often. Although it may not seem significant, dog waste is a proven environmental pollutant. Spring showers can carry the waste directly into nearby streams and creeks via the storm sewer system during this time of year. Unfortunately, this water does not get treated and it can cause problems for aquatic life, other animals, as well as humans.

Animal waste contains many disease causing organisms as well as excess nutrients that affect water quality. The poor water quality can lead to the death of aquatic plants and animals, cause excessive weed and algae growth, and make the water unsafe for human recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, or boating.

Preventing storm water pollution from pets is as simple as remembering to do the following:

- When walking your dog, always bring a bag to collect waste
- Encourage residents and neighbors to do this as well
- Remember to pick up waste on your property daily as spring rains will carry it into the storm sewer system
- Once you have picked up the waste place it in the trash

Picking up pet's waste is necessary for public health reasons as well as quality of life, but it is also a responsibility as a pet owner to see that pets are not contributing to water pollution.