

## It's Against the Law!

Not only is leaving your pet's waste on the ground bad for the environment, it is also illegal! Beaufort County Ordinance forbids residents from allowing human or animal waste to enter storm drain, ditches or streams. All waste must be placed far enough away that it will not run into them. This includes pet waste left on curbs and lawns as well as at parks and other public places, because during a heavy rain, the water will carry the waste into the nearest storm drain, ditch or stream.

**Clean Water. Clean Yards. Clean Shoes.**



**When dooty calls, trash it!**

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## MORE POLLUTION PROBLEMS...

Pet waste is not the only source of stormwater pollution in Beaufort County. Other sources include:

- Motor oil and other car fluids,
- Household hazardous wastes such as cleaners or paints,
- Over-applied fertilizers and pesticides,
- Sediment and soil erosion,
- Litter and debris.

If you see pet waste, chemicals, trash, or other materials going into storm drains or have any other concerns about stormwater,

**Call Beaufort County  
Stormwater  
(843) 255-2805**



Beaufort County Stormwater Utility  
120 Shanklin Road  
Beaufort, S.C. 29906  
Phone: (843) 255-2805

Email: [wstormwater@bcgov.net](mailto:wstormwater@bcgov.net)

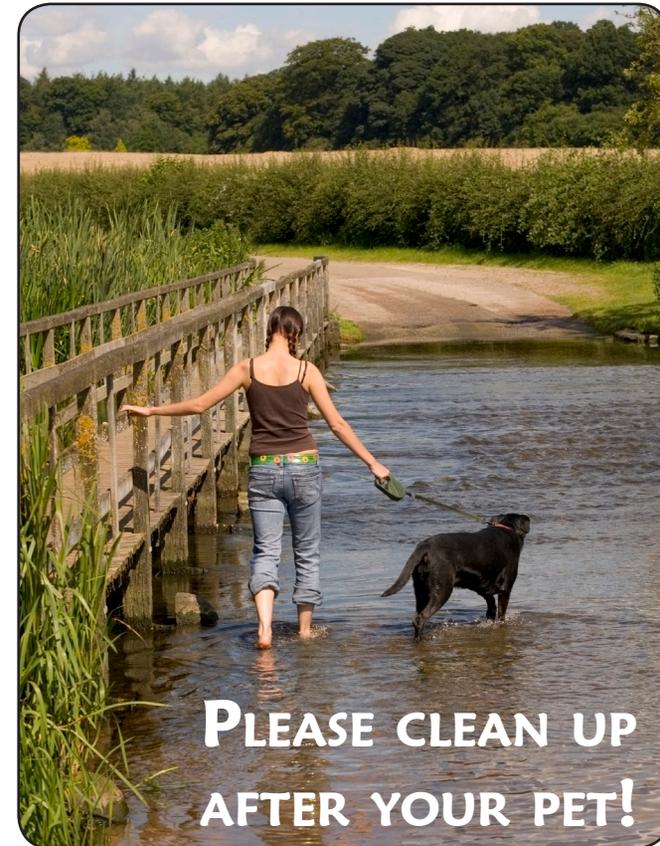
Or visit us on the web at

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/consortiums/beaufort/index.html>



## Pet Waste & Water Quality

**PROTECT THE WATER  
YOU AND YOUR PET BOTH LOVE...**



**PLEASE CLEAN UP  
AFTER YOUR PET!**

***Did you know that your dog's waste contains  
2 ½ times the amount of bacteria as yours?***

If you wouldn't want your own waste entering lakes and rivers, then you don't want your pet's waste to either! Picking up after your pet protects water quality, your health, and the health of your pet.

**LEARN MORE...**



# PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET!

**YOU AND YOUR PET** both love the outdoors, but did you know that failing to pick up your dog's waste can hurt the environment? Pet waste is full of bacteria, viruses and parasites. When pet waste is left on the lawn or the side of the street, all of the bacteria, viruses and parasites in that pet waste are picked up by rain water and washed down the storm drain into the nearest creek, river or lake. This is harmful for water quality and human health.



## Did you know...

Water entering storm drains empties directly into streams, lakes and rivers, without treatment? Never put anything except rain water down a storm drain.



**BACTERIA** and other pathogens in pet waste can cause illness in people (and pets!) who drink or come in contact with contaminated water. *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Giardia* and *Toxoplasma* are just a few of the harmful organisms found in animal waste. Other possible sources of bacteria and pathogens to

waterways include:

- Leaking sewer systems and failing septic tanks;
- Livestock and manure not kept out of streams;
- Water fowl such as ducks and geese.

**NUTRIENTS** in pet waste can also harm lakes by causing algae and weeds to grow in excess, turning the water green, cloudy and unappealing for swimming, boating and other uses.



Algal blooms, as they are called, can use up all of the oxygen in a lake or river and cause fish kills. Other possible sources of nutrients include:

- Grass clipping, leaves and yard debris;
- Over-fertilized lawns and gardens;
- Soaps and detergents from washing cars.



## SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

-  Clean up after your pet every single time, on walks and in the yard.
-  Dispose of the waste properly in the trash or toilet. Pet waste digesters are also commercially available.
-  Many parks and communities offer complimentary waste bags in dispensers for your convenience.
-  Carry extra bags when walking your dog and share them with other pet owners who are without.
-  Keep extra bags in your car so you are prepared when you travel with your dog.
-  Put a friendly message on the bulletin board at the local dog park to remind pet owners to clean up after their dogs.
-  Tell friends and neighbors about the harmful effects of animal waste on the environment. Encourage them to clean up after their pets as well.

## We all live in a watershed...

That means that when rain falls where you live, it flows downhill until it reaches a water body like a river or lake. Smaller watersheds flow into larger watersheds until the water reaches the ocean, along with any pollution it carries.