

## Facts about pet waste!

**Zoonotic Diseases** are those passed from animal to human. Children and infants are the most vulnerable. Dog Feces are one of the most common carriers of Hookworms, Roundworms, Tapeworms, Whipworms, Parvo, and Salmonellosis.

It has been estimated that a single gram (the weight of a business card) 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.

**Urban and storm water pollution.** The EPA and many state and local agencies of dog waste on waterways. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that two or three days worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay, and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it, to swimming and shell fishing.

**Pet waste does NOT make good fertilizer.** It contains microorganisms from your pet's digestive system that can be passed along to plants. A person can become very ill by eating fruits or veggies "fertilized" with pet feces. Also, compost piles may not generate enough heat to kill diseases causing organisms.



### Caution!

**Around your home**– If you leave pet waste to decay in your yard, be sure it does not become a problem. To prevent water pollution, clean up areas near wells, storm drains, ditches and waterways. Always remove waste from areas where children play. They are the most frequent victims of diseases from pet waste. Of course, the best protection for children and adults is washing hands with soap and water.

**In your community**– The City of Mobile has a “pooper scooper” ordinance that governs pet waste cleanup. Section 7-13 of the municipal code requires that anyone who takes an animal off their property clean up any waste deposited from that animal immediately and to carry a bag, shovel or pooper scooper.

## PET WASTE DISPOSAL



**Adopting simple practices by cleaning up after pets can help reduce the impact of pet waste to our waterways.**



City of Mobile  
Storm Water Management  
Educational Series

## What are the benefits of keeping parks and trails free of pet waste?

Picking up after your pets will benefit the waterways in several ways:

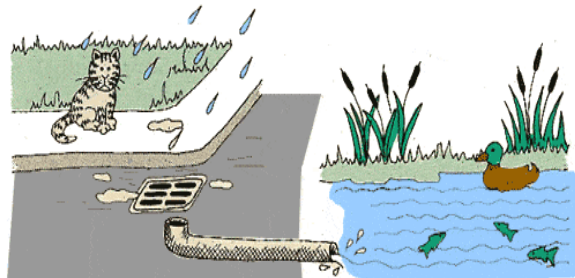
- Reduce the amount of bacteria found in local waterways.
- Keep parks and trails cleaner and healthier for residents.
- Keep shellfish beds and swimming beaches open
- Create a clean, sanitary play area for family activities.
- Ensure a healthier environment for us all
- Involve the community to reduce storm water pollution.

## What is the relationship between storm drains and pet waste?

Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into the storm drain by rain or irrigation water. Unlike the sanitary sewer (from sinks and toilets), storm drains are a direct link to our creeks and rivers, carrying many pollutants– pet waste, pesticides and fertilizer, and oil– along with the untreated water.

## Why is it important to dispose of pet waste properly?

- Pet waste left in parks is unsanitary and disagreeable for park users. It contains pathogenic bacteria and other parasites. When pet waste is washed into our creeks and rivers it decays in the water, depleting oxygen levels and releasing ammonia, which can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life.
- Pet waste contains nutrients that foster weed and algae growth.
- There is a significant problem with fecal bacteria contamination found in our waterways, and pet waste left on the ground is one of the leading sources of this pollutant.



### Cat Litter

Cat litter dumped outside can also be washed into surrounding bodies of water increasing the bacteria in the waterway. Cat litter should also not be dumped into the sanitary sewer system. Scoop the litter into double lined bags, tie securely and dispose of in your garbage can.

## Dog Parks

Several dog parks are located within the City of Mobile. These parks are equipped with pet waste stations containing clean-up bags. When using the dog parks, or any City parks, please clean-up after your pet and dispose of the bags properly in the provided trash cans.

## What should I do to help prevent pet waste into the storm water?

Follow these 3 simple steps to protect your health and prevent water pollution when out for a walk and at home:

- Pick it up
- Bag it
- Throw it in the trash

Pet waste that enters our storm drains ends up in our lakes, streams, rivers, and groundwater.

### Tips for Bagging It

- Keep a supply of bags near your dog leash.
- Reuse old bags: plastic newspaper bags, grocery store bags, or bread bags.
- Purchase special bags where pet supplies are sold
- Tie bags on the leash if you don't have a pocket or pack.
- Double bag waste before throwing into your outside garbage can.