



Nonpoint Source Pollution Education: Managing Pet Waste

When your pet goes on the lawn, remember ... it doesn't just go on the lawn.

When our pets leave those little surprises, rain can wash pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains that can pollute our waterways. So what to do? Simple! Dispose of it properly. Then that little surprise gets treated like it should.

Clean water is important to all of us.

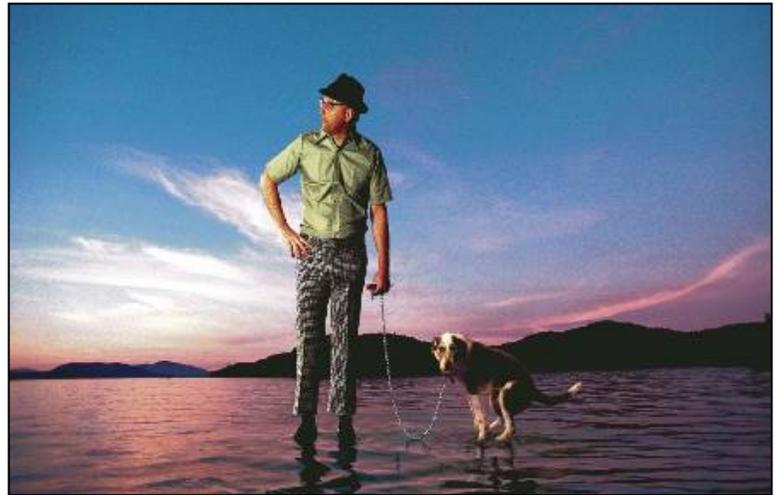
It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why do we need clean water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water—and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, streams, marine, and ground waters clean.

What's the problem with pet waste?

It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It's a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in a lake, stream, or marine water, the bacteria ends up in shellfish. People who eat those shellfish can get very sick. The waste produced by cats and dogs in the Town Branch Creek/Plum Creek Watershed can add up substantially! Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our creek water system with no treatment.



Clean Water Tips: How can you dispose of pet waste and help keep our waters clean?

- Never dump pet waste into a storm drain or catch basin—the average dog feces produces 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria.
- Help your community regulate pet waste, try to make it a priority.
- Throw your pet's waste in the trash, tie the bags off so they don't spill.
- Always clean up after your pet, even in your own yard.
- Tell others about the risks of leaving their pet's waste on the ground, yard, and street.

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For more information on Nonpoint Source Pollution and fun educational activities, please visit:

<http://www.lockhart-tx.org/web98/citydepartments/publicworks.asp>