



Did You Know...

- ◆ There are approximately 33,800 registered dogs in New Hanover County!
- ◆ A dog drops an average of 3/4 pounds of waste daily.

33,800 dogs x 3/4 lbs. daily =
25,350 lbs. or 12.5 tons
of dog waste generated daily in
New Hanover County!

- ◆ When it rains, bacteria and pathogens in pet waste wash directly into the storm drainage system, then into our waterways - untreated!



Protect your health
and our waterways -
Clean Up After Your Pet!



Stormwater Services
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PET WASTE

Pick It Up....
It's Your "Doodie"!



Pet waste
is a danger to
your **HEALTH**
and our
WATERWAYS!

What's the Problem with Pet Waste?



Pet waste pollutes our waterways and threatens public health! Stormwater

runoff washes disease-causing bacteria and parasites from pet waste directly into our creeks and waterways.

Human Health Impacts

Fecal coliform bacteria, found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, is a common pollutant in local creeks and waterways. In fact, a single gram of pet waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria! High levels of this bacteria indicate that water may be unsafe for human contact like swimming, fishing, shellfishing or drinking.

Diseases and infections that can be spread to humans and other animals:



- ◆ **Salmonellosis** Common bacterial infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, diarrhea, headache, vomiting, abdominal cramps and even death.
- ◆ **Campylobacteriosis** Bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that causes diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain and fever in humans.
- ◆ **Toxoplasmosis** Parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects such as mental retardation and blindness if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy. Also a problem for people with suppressed immune systems.
- ◆ **Toxocariasis** Infection caused by parasitic roundworms that can cause temporary vision loss or blindness, rash, fever, cough and pneumonia.
- ◆ **Pet waste can also cause** giardiasis, tuberculosis, cryptosporidiosis, e.coli, etc.

Water Quality Impacts

In addition to human health risks, bacteria in pet waste also causes serious **water quality problems** resulting in shellfish bed closures, swimming advisories, recreational water closures and impaired aquatic habitat.



Nutrients in pet waste encourage **algae** and **aquatic weeds** to grow out of control in a waterway. When algae decays, it uses up **dissolved oxygen** in the water and releases ammonia, which can **kill fish** and other aquatic organisms. This nutrient-rich water **harms** aquatic habitat and is unattractive and unsuitable for swimming, fishing, drinking and other activities.



Responsible pet owners clean up after their pets!

CLEANING UP PET WASTE

There are many factors that cause water pollution, but pet waste is one you can easily prevent. Listed below are tips for cleaning up and disposing of pet waste properly:

- ◆ Always clean up after your pet! Pet waste is not a fertilizer.
- ◆ Carry a bag, scooper or shovel to pick up waste. Put waste in a bag, seal it, then place in the trash.
- ◆ Utilize free pet waste stations and supplies in local parks.
- ◆ Install a pet waste digester on your property.
- ◆ Hire a pet waste removal service.
- ◆ Bury waste in a hole that is at least 6" deep and away from gardens, wells, ditches, storm drains and waterways.
- ◆ Waste from **cats that use the outdoors** should also be contained. Provide a covered litter box outside. Bag the used kitty litter and place in the trash.
- ◆ **DO NOT:** flush pet waste or kitty litter down the toilet (*City/County ordinance*), compost pet waste, dump it in storm drains or ditches, or leave it on the ground.
- ◆ **Spread the word!** Help protect our waterways and public health.

