

What You Can Do:

Always clean up after your pet & dispose of the waste in the trash, in a sealed or tied plastic bag.

Flush your pet's waste down the toilet. The waste from your toilet goes to a septic system or waste water treatment plant that removes pollutants before the water reaches a lake or stream.



Encourage your neighbors and other pet owners to clean up— it's part of the responsibility of owning a pet.

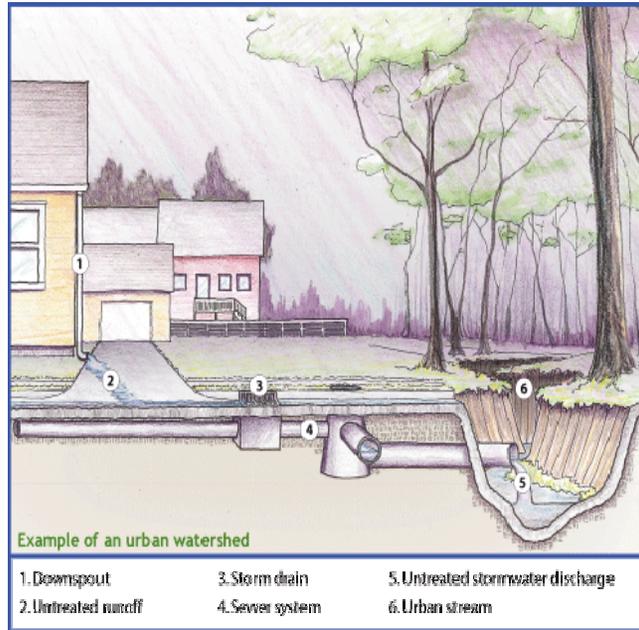
What You Should Not Do:

Don't dispose of waste in a stormwater drain as these systems go directly to our local waterways: (streams, creeks, lakes, rivers, etc.)

Don't use pet waste as a fertilizer. Bacteria in pet waste does more harm than good.



Stormwater Run off Problems



Run off - Run off is stormwater that flows over impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, streets and to some extent over residential lawns. As it flows, it picks up oils, lawn chemicals, **pet waste** and other pollutants along the way.

Polluted stormwater runoff has been identified by the US Environmental Protection Agency as the nation's main cause of water quality problems.

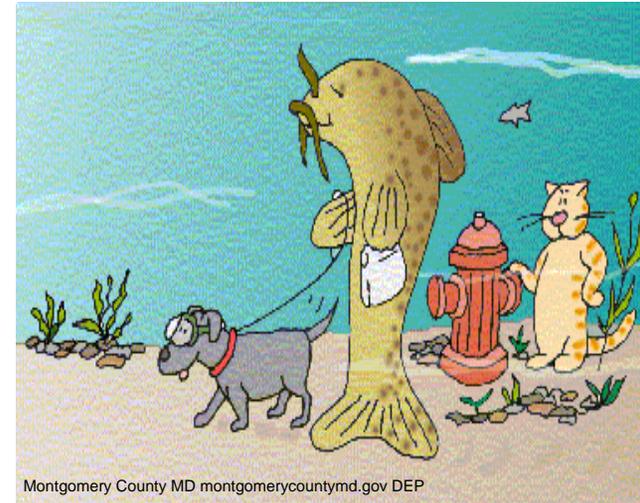
Clean Water the Clear Choice

For more information contact:

Kimberly McClurkin
423-643-6187

To report illegal dumping or a spill **Call 311**
or Email: SWM@mail.chattanooga.gov

Clean Water the Clear Choice



Pet Waste And Water Quality

City of Chattanooga/Public Works

Water Quality Program
1250 Market Street, Suite 2100
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Phone: 423-643-5863
Fax: 423-643-5862



Pet Waste
Pollutes
Our Watersheds!

Pet waste left on the street or lawn does not just go away or fertilize the grass. The rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains and pollutes our watersheds.

Dirty Facts about Pet Waste & Water Quality

- There are approximately 200,000—225,000 dogs in Chattanooga.
- A dog population of 12,000 is estimated to contribute about 5,000 pounds of solid waste every day and has been identified as a major contributor of bacteria to the stream.
- Pet waste contains harmful bacteria such as *E. Coli* and Fecal Coliform. Waters that contain a high amount of bacteria such as *E. Coli* are unhealthy for human contact. **Did you know that a single gram (0.035 ounces) of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.**
- In addition to bacteria, pet waste contains nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients that can speed growth of algae and aquatic weeds which are harmful to our streams and river. Excess vegetation growth is both unsightly and it uses up the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to live.

Here are some easy steps for dealing with your pet's waste:

- **Always carry a plastic bag** when you walk your dog. Re-using an old newspaper delivery bag or plastic grocery bag works well. To avoid unpleasant surprises, check the bag for holes before your pet's walk!
- Use the bag as a glove to pick up the pet waste. Turn the bag inside out around the waste, scoop it up, seal the bag, and **dispose of it in a trash can**. You can also flush un-bagged pet waste down the toilet.
- **Don't place bagged or un-bagged pet waste in a storm drain** (including ditches). Also do not hose pet waste towards storm drains as they drain directly to a stream, river, lake or other waterbody.
- If you have a large yard, **bury un-bagged pet waste** about 5 inches deep in the ground away from vegetable gardens and waterways. Also, compost piles may not get hot enough to kill disease-causing organisms.
- Remove waste from areas where children play or you garden.
- **Wash your hands** with warm, soapy water after dealing with pet waste!



Please help
KEEP OUR PARKS CLEAN

Recycle
your
plastic bags
by putting them into 1 of 65
pet waste
stations
in a pet friendly park near you.

Please Use them to
REMOVE PET WASTE!

Pets 'on-leash' are permitted at all city parks except: Coolidge Park, Ross' Landing, Aquarium Plaza, Walnut St. Bridge & Tenn. River Park to maintain public health & safety in these high use areas.



PARKS AND RECREATION