

Please pick up after your pet!

Pets are cute, but their waste is not!

Pet waste pollutes stormwater and the rivers or lakes which it travels to. In fact, just **one gram of this little puppy's waste can harbor 23 million fecal coliform bacteria**. These bacteria can spread diseases and parasites like *Giardia*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Hookworm*, *Roundworm*, and *Toxoplasmosis*-causing protozoans.

In fact, 20% of the bacteria in urban waters stems from pet waste. Nutrients in pet waste also act as fertilizer in streams, causing algae to grow and take up much of the oxygen fish need to live.

Do your part: if she poops, you scoop!



The Doos and Don'ts of Pet Waste



Doos:

- 🐾 Carry pet waste bags with you, and bring extra bags to make sure that you don't run out on your trip!
- 🐾 After picking up after your pet, take the waste with you instead of leaving it on the trail or sidewalk. It's **your** job to dispose of the waste!
- 🐾 Always tie the bag and dispose of it in a trash can or empty into toilet. Flushing pet waste sends it into the sanitary sewer system, where it can be treated to destroy all the dangerous bacteria.
- 🐾 Pick up pet waste at home to keep your yard and nearby streams healthy.
- 🐾 You can also bury pet waste in your yard at least five inches below the ground and far from any vegetable gardens, streams, ditches, or wells.

Don'ts:

- 🐾 Frequently remove pet waste from your lawn. Bacterial pathogens can be dangerous to kids playing in your yard. These pathogens can also contaminate anything growing in your yard.
- 🐾 Never add pet waste to your compost piles. Compost does not generate the heat required to destroy these dangerous pathogens.
- 🐾 Never leave pet waste near a curb, as it can easily be washed into the storm drain which empty into local waterways.
- 🐾 Don't forget to pick up after your pet in public areas like beaches and parks! If pet waste is left near surface waters, it will be easily washed into the waterways and cause bacterial problems or even beach closures.

**Your pet is your best friend.
Let's make them nature's best friend, too.**



Brought to you by Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners on behalf of the City of Streetsboro
(330) 963-6243, info@tinkerscreekwatershed.org
www.tinkerscreek.org

