
POOP.

We all understand that dog waste left on the ground is an eyesore and a nuisance. But do you really understand the reasons why picking up your pet's poop has become such a big issue?

What's the Big Deal?

It might not seem like an obvious stormwater problem, but animal waste is one of the many seemingly small sources of pollution that can add up to big problems for our water quality.



Leaving your dog's fecal matter behind puts the health of other pets, aquatic life, and even our children at risk. Why? Because dog waste contains bacteria which can cause disease in people and animals. These bacteria include E. coli, salmonella, giardia and fecal coliform which can make humans very ill and can lead to partial or total paralysis in canines. Did you know that a single gram of dog waste contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria on average?

When it Rains. . .

Have you considered what happens when it rains? When waste gets washed into our creeks and down our storm drains, disease in animals that rely on the water for survival can occur. Also, during the decaying of this waste, nutrients are released promoting weed and algae growth which reduces oxygen levels in water. This can also have very negative effects on fish and aquatic organisms.

So, next time you take your dog out for a walk, be prepared. Take a bag. Avoid letting your dog do his business within 200 feet of a body of water. Never wash your dogs waste down the storm drain. Keep our parks, streets, neighborhoods, and water ways clean and safe.

Would you want to drink this water?
