

Canines for Clean Water



Program Info

1. Always pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly. (See “Tips” inside.)
2. Sign the Canines for Clean Water Pledge at local pet events & receive a FREE dog bandana.
3. Send a photo of your pooch proudly wearing their bandana to our online photo gallery. Email photo to: canines@wilmingtonnc.gov

Photo Gallery/Pledge Events:
www.wilmingtonnc.gov/canines



Did you know...our local creeks and waterways have fecal bacteria levels that exceed clean water standards?
Pet waste is a major source of this bacteria.

When it rains, stormwater runoff carries pollution such as pet waste, fertilizer, motor oil, and litter straight to the nearest creek, which eventually drains into the Cape Fear River and Atlantic Ocean.

Pet waste pollutes our environment and endangers your health:

- *Humans can contract diseases and infections like salmonella, e.coli, giardia, and toxoplasmosis from bacteria and viruses contained in pet waste.*
- *Pet waste bacteria results in waters being closed for swimming, fishing, shellfishing and drinking.*
- *Pet waste also contains high levels of nutrients that cause toxic algal blooms and aquatic weeds, which use up oxygen in water. This can kill fish and other aquatic life.*
- *It's also gross to step in pet waste. You can track bacteria into your house on the bottom of your shoes.*
- **Make a difference - your neighbors, waterways and shoes will thank you!**



Tips for Cleaning up after Fido

It's your Doodly!



- 🐾 Always carry a bag or scooper with me at all times
- 🐾 Always clean up after my pet, even in my own backyard
- 🐾 Always dispose of pet waste properly by either:
 - Placing in a closed trash can (*bag it first!*)
 - Using a pet waste digester
 - Burying in a hole at least 6" deep - away from storm drains, ditches, waterways, gardens, and wells
 - Not flushing pet waste down the toilet
(*Cape Fear Public Utility Authority ordinance*)
- 🐾 Encourage other pet owners to be responsible too

Check out these Canines for Clean Water!

Online: www.wilmingtonnc.gov/canines



**By participating in Canines for Clean Water, I give my consent to the City of Wilmington to use my information (i.e. pledge, name, pet photo, etc) for public education and outreach purposes, such as displaying my name and pet photo on the city's website or at special events.*