



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 pounds 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
& our waterways.

*Clean Up After Your Pet -
It's the Law!*



Stormwater Services
209 Coleman Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412
910-343-4777 or Dial 711 TTY Voice
www.wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater

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PET WASTE

is a **danger** to
your **health** and
our **waterways!**



**It's the Law!
\$250 fine!!**

Carry a bag or scooper
Clean up after your pet
Dispose of waste properly

It's Your Doody!

What's the Problem with Pet Waste?



Pet waste pollutes our waterways and endangers public health! Stormwater runoff washes bacteria, parasites and nutrients from pet waste directly into our creeks and waterways.

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Human Health Impacts

Fecal coliform bacteria, found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, is a pollutant impacting local creeks and waterways. High levels of this bacteria indicate that a waterway may be unsafe for swimming, fishing, shellfishing or drinking. Did you know, a single gram of pet waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria!!

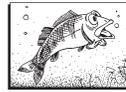
Diseases and infections that can be spread to humans and other animals:



- ◆ **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 blindness or temporary vision loss, rash, fever, cough and pneumonia.
- ◆ **Pet waste can also cause conditions like:** tuberculosis, e.coli contamination, cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, etc.

Water Quality Impacts

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



Nutrients in pet waste cause **algae** and **aquatic weeds** to grow out of control in our waterways. When algae decays, it uses up **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

*Remember, it's the LAW!
\$250 fine for non-compliance.*

- ◆ Always clean up after your pet on any public property!
- ◆ Be prepared! Always carry a bag or scooper to pick up after your pet. Don't leave home without it - you need to show it to a code enforcement officer if asked. Take 2 bags to be safe!
- ◆ Bag pet waste, seal it, and place in a closed trash can or refuse container.
- ◆ DO NOT flush pet waste or kitty litter down the toilet (CFPUA ordinance).

At home:

- ◆ You should also pick up pet waste at your residence to prevent bacteria and nutrients from harming waterways and public health.
- ◆ If you hire a pet waste removal service for your yard, be sure the waste is picked up regularly. It's a bad idea to leave bacteria-laden pet waste on the ground too long. Apartment complexes and HOAs should encourage residents to clean up after their pets by adopting/enforcing a pet waste policy.
- ◆ Install a pet waste digester on your property; it's like a mini-septic system for pet waste.
- ◆ Bury waste in a hole that is at least 6" deep and away from gardens, wells, ditches, storm drains and waterways.
- ◆ Waste from cats and other pets that "use the restroom outdoors" should also be collected. Provide a covered litter box outside, then place the used kitty litter in a bag in the trash.
- ◆ **Never** compost pet waste, dump it in storm drains or ditches, or leave it on the ground.

