

# Pet Waste

## Best Management Practices for the Pet Owner



### How does pet waste harm the environment?

Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and roads goes untreated into our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes! The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding.

Nearly 20% of the bacteria found in water samples in Seattle Washington and 25% in the Kansas City region were matched with dogs or pet waste.

## What Can You Do?

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- Be prepared, when you go for a walk take a plastic bag
- Pick up pet waste
- Remove pet waste from areas where children play
- Keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens and water supplies
- Do not add pet waste to compost pile - it will not get hot enough to kill disease organisms
- Do not dispose of pet waste in the storm drain



### Methods of Disposal

- Flush down the toilet
- Put in the trash (check local ordinances first!)
- Bury in the yard

## Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste

- **Campylobacteriosis** – bacterial infection – frequently causes diarrhea
- **Cryptosporidium** – parasite – symptoms include: diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration – may be fatal to those with depressed immune systems
- **Toxocariasis** – roundworms – may cause vision loss, rash, fever, and cough
- **Toxoplasmosis** – parasite – symptoms include: headache, muscle aches, lymph node enlargement – may cause birth defects if contracted by pregnant women