

Consider this:

A single dog drops an average of $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of waste daily, and three dogs drop waste in one day's time equivalent to one human.

Dog waste is a significant contaminant to surface waters. When it rains, bacteria from pet waste can wash directly into storm drains and gutters and eventually into our waterways – **UNTREATED!**

Would ***you*** swim in raw sewage?



**Don't be fooled: Dog waste
IS raw sewage!**

**If dogs came with diapers,
we'd have it made.**



**Be a responsible pet owner.
Scoop the poop!**



**City of Moses Lake
Stormwater Division**

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WASHINGTON
waters
OURS TO PROTECT

Cover graphic courtesy of Puget
Sound Action Team and the
Washington State Department of
Ecology.

**IF YOU THINK PICKING
UP DOG POOP IS
UNPLEASANT,
TRY SWIMMING IN IT.**



But isn't pet waste natural?



He might be man's best friend, but pet waste in our waterways is doggone BAD!

Pet waste is a health hazard and a stormwater pollutant. Storm water runoff can wash bacteria from pet waste directly into storm systems and waterways.

Bacteria, parasites and viruses contained in pet waste are a health risk to other animals and people. Fecal coliform bacteria, found in the waste of warm-blooded animals, is a common pollutant in Washington waterways. High levels of this bacteria can make the water unsafe for human contact.

Nutrients in pet waste also '**feed the weeds**' and algae. This nutrient-rich water is cloudy, green, stinky, and unhealthy for swimming, boating, fishing or drinking.

When pet waste decays, it uses up oxygen and releases ammonia, which can lead to fish kills.



Are you risking your health?

When pet waste is left on the ground or disposed of improperly your health may be at risk too. Pets, children who play outside, and adults who garden are at the highest risk of infection from pathogens found in pet waste. Flies also spread diseases found in pet waste.

Diseases that can be spread from pet waste to humans include **Campylobacteriosis**, **Salmonellosis**, **Toxoplasmosis** and **E. Coli**. Pet waste can also contain **roundworms**, **giardiasis**, **tuberculosis**, **gastroenteritis**, and **cryptosporidiosis**.



Yuck!



Scoop the poop!



When your pet goes on the ground, it doesn't just disappear!

Here's how to keep it out of the watershed.

- Always clean up after your pet, during walks or just out in the yard.
- Use a scooper, bag or shovel to pick up pet waste.
- Put it in a bag and dispose of it in the trash (NOT your yard waste bin!) Or scoop it up and flush it down the toilet. These are the **only** places equipped to handle hazardous sewage materials like pet waste.
- Establish a pet waste management schedule for your location. Scoop yards and pet areas regularly. Your pets' health will thank you too! Regular waste removal helps break the cycle of worms and parasites.
- DO NOT leave pet waste on streets, sidewalks, patios or other impervious (hard) surfaces where it can wash into storm drains, gutters or waterways.

