

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, contact Collin County Stormwater Program office at: 972.548.3733  
Or via email at: [thomfeld@collincountytx.gov](mailto:thomfeld@collincountytx.gov)  
or [stormwater@collincountytx.gov](mailto:stormwater@collincountytx.gov).

Or Visit Collin County's Stormwater Website at:  
[www.collincountytx.gov/engineering/stormwater/](http://www.collincountytx.gov/engineering/stormwater/)

North Central Texas Council of Governments  
Doo the Right Thing Pledge and Calendar  
Contest  
<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/stormwater/pet-waste>



## DID YOU KNOW?

- A single gram of pet waste contains on average 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, some of which cause disease in humans.
- There are approximately 1.5 million dogs in North Central Texas. The average dog produces  $\frac{3}{4}$  pounds of waste a day, that is almost 1,125,000 pounds of dog waste produced each day in our area.
- Many of the streams in Collin County flow into water supply reservoirs (Lake Ray Hubbard and Lake Lavon) that supply drinking water to our communities and provide recreation opportunities such as boating and fishing.



# Doo the Right Thing

# Pick Up After Your Pet

## STORM WATER RUNOFF

Storm water is water from rain. It flows from rooftops, through lawns, over paved streets and parking lots, and into storm drains. As it flows over surfaces, runoff collects and transports pet waste, soil, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, litter and other pollutants, which are major contributors of pollution to our creeks and lakes.

## HEALTH HAZARDS

Bacteria, parasites and viruses contained in pet waste are a health hazard. These include fecal coliform, toxoplasmosis, salmonellosis and toxocariasis. These hazards can transmit infections and parasites to those who come in contact with the water, especially people with weakened immune systems and children.

## OTHER PROBLEMS

Dog doo is not fertilizer. It is high in nitrogen and phosphorous, which leave burn marks on your lawn. These chemicals are also bad for our creeks and lakes. Pet waste is high in nutrients, which feed algae and cause water to become murky and green.

Decaying pet waste also uses up oxygen and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia, combined with warm water temperatures, can kill fish and other aquatic life. Nobody wants to swim, fish or boat in that. Excess nutrients are a major cause of pollution.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There are many ways to properly dispose of your pet's waste. Here are some tips.

- ✓ Pick up pet waste from your yard. It is not a fertilizer.
- ✓ Carry disposable bags while walking your dog to pick up and dispose of waste properly. If you dispose of pet waste in the trash, wrap it carefully to avoid spillage during collection.
- ✓ Flush your pet's waste down the toilet, so it can be treated at a sewage treatment plant.
- ✓ Bury pet waste in your yard, at least 12 inches deep and cover with at least eight inches of soil to let it decompose slowly. Bury the waste in several different locations and keep it away from vegetable gardens.



## PET WASTE IN STORMWATER

Every time it rains the potential exists for thousands of pounds of pet waste to wash down storm drains and into streams, rivers and lakes. If not disposed of properly, pet waste flows directly into nearby streams and creeks without being treated at wastewater treatment facilities.

Many of our local waterways do not meet state water quality bacteria standards for recreational use. Pet waste is one of the components of non-point source pollution that contributes to our water quality problems and is one that each of us can help correct.

Pet waste should never enter storm drains and surface water.