

# Pet Waste Management

## Purpose and Scope

It may be difficult to picture how one dog or cat depositing a small amount of animal waste here and there can result in potential water pollution, but studies have shown that the impact of waste from all the pets, livestock, and resident waterfowl within a watershed can have a significant impact on water quality and may also cause human health risks.

We all love our pets and as responsible pet owners we need to properly dispose of pet waste whether it lands on the sidewalk, our neighbor's lawn, in the park, or in our yard. Pet waste is more than a smelly nuisance. It is a pollutant carried to our waterways by stormwater runoff. It is a source of pathogens and nutrients all of which degrade water quality. In fact, in urban areas pet waste and fertilizers are among the top sources of nutrients to stormwater. Excess nutrients impair water quality, causing harmful and nuisance algal blooms (HNABs). Poor water quality in streams and rivers means higher water treatment costs and reduced recreational use.

All staff, students, on-campus business and visitors are responsible for picking up after their animal's waste and disposing of it properly.

## What you can do:

One simple step is to pick up your pet's waste, no matter where it lands, drops, or plops. No matter where you are, properly dispose of pet waste in a waste receptacle.

- **Keep a supply of bags handy**
  - Carry a plastic bag with you on every walk. There are even compact, refillable bag dispensers that you attach directly to your dog's leash.
- **Dispose of pet waste properly**
  - Throw the plastic bag of pet waste in the trash – not down the storm drain. Do not flush pet waste down your toilet.
- **Help others remember to scoop the poop**
  - Don't let your pet pollute and encourage those around you to be responsible pet owners, too.

## Contact:

For additional information, contact Environmental Health and Safety:

- Email: [ehs@wcupa.edu](mailto:ehs@wcupa.edu)
- Office: 610-436-3333

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