



# Keep our creeks clean. Clean up after your dog!



Dog poop can be a major contributor to stormwater pollution. Rain and melting snow flows across yards, dog parks, down trails, etc. on its way to creeks via our streets and storm drains. Dog poop contains bacteria and is high in nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients that negatively affect our waters).

## The Impact

There is significant evidence that pets and urban wildlife are major sources of water contamination, because pet waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites. A single gram of dog feces can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which can spread diseases like *Giardia*, *Salmonella*, and *Campylobacter*, causing serious illness in humans.

## You Can Make a Difference

In Boulder County, there is one dog for every three people. You can make a difference by being a responsible pet guardian and a model for others.

- Be prepared. Carry bags with you to pick up pet waste. It's a good idea to carry a few extras with you in case you meet someone in need.
- Collect your pet's poop in a bag and deposit it in a trashcan, or dump the poop in the toilet **without** the bag. Do NOT leave bags on the side of trails – there isn't anybody designated to pick them up!
- Routinely pick up your pet's waste (or hire someone to do so) from your yard and the grounds or parks near your home, so you're not contributing to decreased downstream water quality.

## The Facts

- San Francisco recently determined that pet waste accounted for 4% of their residential waste stream.
- Dog waste is cited as the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> largest contributor of bacterial pollution in urban watersheds.
- A study at a Seattle watershed found that 20% of bacteria in the water could be attributed to dogs.
- Dog feces have higher phosphorous rates than that found in cow manure, broiler chicken litter, or swine manure. Phosphorus is a nutrient that can impact water quality and plant species.
- Dog urine contains nitrogen (another nutrient), and contaminated runoff can lead to serious water quality issues.
- The average dog produces 3 /4 pounds of poop every day. 1,000 dogs will produce 750 pounds of excrement in a week. There are approximately 30,000 dogs in the city of Boulder alone.



**Pick up after your dog – it's the neighborly thing to do!**  
*"Keep it clean, 'cause we're all downstream!"*



**KEEP IT CLEAN  
PARTNERSHIP**

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