



## What's wrong with pet waste?

Fecal matter contains nutrients, which cause weeds and algae to grow more rapidly than normal. Excess weeds and algal growth changes the balance of the ecosystem. Decaying plant material uses oxygen, which can reduce the amount available to support fish and other aquatic life.



Pet waste can also contain pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and parasitic worms which can transmit disease to humans. When high levels of bacteria are found in a body of water, fishing and shellfish harvesting are restricted because of the threat posed for humans.

### PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS FROM PET WASTE IS EASY

1. Scoop the poop.
2. Double bag it.
3. Put it in the trash.

**Mason County**  
Scoop the Poop

Puget Sound  
**Starts Here**.org

**Mason County**  
Scoop the Poop

## The Pet Waste and Water Quality Connection.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Mason County Public Health  
Shelton: (360) 427-9670 x544 or x584  
Belfair: (360) 275-4467

Mason Conservation District  
<http://www.masoncd.org/>

Snohomish County Pet Waste Information  
<http://tinyurl.com/petwaste>

Kitsap County Handout  
<http://tinyurl.com/KitsapPetHandout>

Text courtesy of the City of Lacey and  
Thurston County Animal Service



**Mason County Public Health**

*Always working for a safer and  
healthier Mason County.*

[www.co.mason.wa.us](http://www.co.mason.wa.us)

[www.pugetsoundstartshere.org](http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org)

*Don't Pollute. Scoop the Poop.*





# PROPER PET WASTE DISPOSAL:

1. Scoop the poop.
2. Double bag it.
3. Put it in the trash.

## What if I don't live near the water?

It may not be apparent to you, especially if you don't live next to a body of water, how your pet's waste affects the water quality of lakes, streams and marine waters in our area. To understand the connection, it's helpful to understand how stormwater runoff works.

Catch basins, manholes, and grass ditches at the edge of your property collect water runoff and direct it to the closest body of water. Typically, stormwater never passes through a sanitary sewer treatment facility. In other words, anything on the ground no matter how far away from the stormwater drainage can eventually end up in a nearby waterway.

## When Walking:

Bring plastic bags with you when you walk your dog. Use a bag to pick up the dog waste. Tie bag closed and place in trash.

## At Home:

Double bag dog waste and kitty litter. Tie securely and place in garbage. Long handled "pooper scoopers" available at pet stores make it easy to pick up after your dog without stooping over.



## Do not flush pet waste down the toilet

Septic systems and wastewater treatment plants are not designed to treat dog or cat waste.

## Do not compost pet waste

The disease causing organisms in pet waste are very sturdy and are not killed by backyard composting.

## Watch what you feed your pet

What goes in must come out....The type of food you give your pet will affect the quantity of pet waste you must deal with. Rice based food is the most easily digested. Consult your vet if you have questions.

## Control where your pet relieves himself

Wherever you are this is a good idea; at home or out and about. Pet waste needs to be scooped!

