Pet Waste in Northwest Arkansas

The average dog creates approximately 98 lbs of waste per year. With nearly 100,000 dogs in urban areas of Northwest Arkansas, this amounts to nearly 10 million pounds or **5,000 tons of pet waste is generated in the region each year!**

If this waste is not picked up it will wash bacteria and nutrients into storm drains that lead directly to the closest creek, without any treatment.

Did You Know?

Some local waterways are impaired from excessive bacteria levels in urban areas.

An impaired river no longer meets all of its designated uses such as swimming or wading. One impaired waterway in Northwest Arkansas is Clear Creek. It has many tributaries such as Mud Creek, Flynn Creek, Scull Creek, Kitty Creek, Sublet Creek and Niokaska Creek. Clear Creek is a tributary of the Illinois River Watershed.

Help keep our waterways clean!

Correcting the Problem

Properly managing pet waste is something that everyone can do to make a difference in their watershed. Proper pet waste management is quick, inexpensive, and offers many benefits.

When we practice proper pet waste management, it can significantly improve the quality of our shared water resources.

### Did You Know?

Several common diseases or parasites can be frequently found in pet waste including:

- **Heartworms**
- **Whipworms**
- **Hookworms**
- **Roundworms**
- **Tapeworms**
- **Parvo**
- **Corona**
- **Giardiasis**
- **Salmonellosis**
- **Cryptosporidiosis**

Practicing proper pet waste disposal is a Best Management Practice (BMP). BMPs are actions that reduce pollutants in the landscape from making their way to a waterway. Not only is proper pet waste management good for water quality, but it is good for you and your pet’s health.

### Proper Pet Waste Disposal

**Flush it** - Pet waste can be flushed down the toilet where it will go to a septic system or to a sewage treatment plant before being discharged into surface waters.

**Trash it** - Pet waste can be disposed of it in the trash where it will be disposed of in a landfill.

### Top Five Reasons to Pick Up After Your Pet in Your Yard

1. **You will be helping to keep water quality in good condition!**
2. **You, your family/friends, and your pet may be healthier!**
3. **You will have fewer flies in your yard!**
4. **You won’t step in a pile when you mow the lawn and you won’t track the waste into your house!**
5. **The yard will smell better!**
We ALL Live Downstream

Consider proper pet waste management as a Best Management Practice (BMP) to reduce pathogens and nutrients carried to local streams during rainfall events. No matter where we live, we all live in a watershed and we all can have an impact on water quality.

Contact your County Extension office about implementing a BMP in your

Proper Pet Waste Management

Proper pet waste management practices can protect water quality and the health of your pet.

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If left on the ground in a park, a city sidewalk, or your own backyard, pet waste can degrade water quality and jeopardize pet and/or human health.

If not picked up, pet waste can be washed through storm drains untreated and into nearby creeks, polluting the waterway.

Pet waste can be tracked into your house, aiding disease and parasite transmission from pet to pet or from pet to human.

What should you do? Pick it up and dispose of it in the trash or toilet. Or if you prefer, contact a local pet waste disposal service.

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