

## 3 Steps to Pet Waste Management

You too can "doo" something "pawsitive" for City of Centralia's streams and wetlands.

1. Scoop the poop.
2. Bag it.
3. Toss it in the garbage!

Properly disposing of dog poop also helps you

- ◊ Keep pets healthy
- ◊ Make yards and parks safer and more pleasant places to play
- ◊ Keep your shoes & house clean
- ◊ Support a healthy watershed

- Pet waste may contain parasites that can make your children sick if they come into contact with it.
- Even though pet waste may seem to "just go away" it can still cause pollution.
- Nutrients from pet waste contribute to algae growth in water bodies.
- Bacteria in pet waste can make rivers, creeks and lakes unsafe for swimming.
- Picking up your pet's waste is your responsibility as a pet owner—and it's the law.

**City of Centralia  
Stormwater Department**



**1100 North Tower  
Centralia, WA 98531  
Phone 360-330-7512  
[www.cityofcentralia.com](http://www.cityofcentralia.com)**



## Protect Our Rivers: Scoop the Poop



Information from

City of Centralia

Stormwater Dept

3 simple steps to reduce pet waste pollution

## As stormwater flows

over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants.

Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland.

Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides,

### pet waste,

grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater.

Adopt these healthy household habits

 and help protect

lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!



*A day's worth of waste from just one large dog can contain 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria*

## You Can Prevent Pet Pollution!

Stepping in pet waste is annoying. Pet waste smells; it attracts flies and it can be a source of parasites and infections for other pets and for children who play outside. Contact with pet waste can cause illnesses such as Giardia and salmonella. Picking up your pet's waste from other yards and public spaces is common courtesy—and it's the law in Centralia. It can mean cleaner and healthier neighborhoods and less water pollution.

Pet waste is a type of pollution that can easily be reduced. All pet owners need is environmental awareness and a pet waste bag.

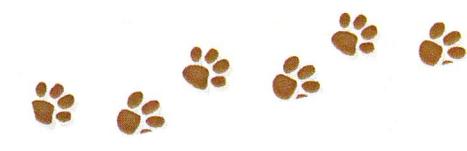


The best kind of bag to use is a biodegradable one. When you walk your pet you can place the bag over your hand and use it to pick up the waste. Then place it in a trash can, remember to wash your hands afterwards. Pet waste should not be composted or used as a garden fertilizer.

 Large or Small ...

### Scoop It All!

- ⇒ It doesn't matter if your pet is large or small—it can still contribute to water pollution.
- ⇒ Dog poop left on the ground is no small problem—based on a study by the American Veterinary Medical Association, it is estimated that there are 1.6 million dogs in Washington State. That means hundreds of tons of new dog poop every day! Three dogs provide waste in a day's time roughly equivalent to one person.
- ⇒ Pet waste is a health risk to dogs and people, especially children. It's full of bacteria that can make people sick.



Bacteria can persist in the ground for years, and are a significant contaminant to surface waters.

Your neighbors will appreciate your good manners!

