

PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS

Pet feces can contain a variety of disease-causing organisms and parasites including E. coli and roundworm, which are harmful to other animals and people. High fecal coliform levels in water can indicate the presence of other harmful microorganisms that can transmit the diseases listed below and cause closures of waterways for fishing and recreation.



DISEASES FOUND IN PET WASTE

Campylobacteriosis:

A bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.

Salmonellosis:

The most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Toxoplasmosis:

A protozoan parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects if infected during pregnancy.

Other diseases:

Giardiasis, tuberculosis, gastroenteritis and cryptosporidiosis.



WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE
LAWN, REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST
GO ON THE LAWN

To report stormwater pollution
please call the
Stormwater Hotline at
704-282-4515

For more information visit the
Stormwater website at
[www.monroenc.org/
stormwater](http://www.monroenc.org/stormwater)

Parts of this brochure courtesy of
Rock Hill, SC



WHY IS PET WASTE AN ISSUE?

Leaving pet waste on the ground **increases public health risks** by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into local water bodies. **Each time it rains, animal waste that has not been cleaned up can get picked up by runoff and carried downstream.**



Since our **storm drainage system is not connected** to any type of treatment plant, these pollutants are discharged in the closest creek, stream, river or lake.

Pet waste is considered a non-point source pollutant and contributes to **elevated levels of bacteria and pathogens** in water. Pet waste also **contributes excess nutrients that can cause algae or vegetation blooms** in lakes (duckweed shown below). When all of the algae and plants die, their decomposition uses up lots of dissolved oxygen, depriving fish and wildlife.



WALKING YOUR PET

- **Be prepared!** Always bring a plastic bag or pooper scooper on walks.
- Tie off the bag and **take it with you** to dispose of it in the trash. Don't leave it outside.
- Keep your pet **on a leash** when walking along creeks so you don't miss a pile and they don't disturb wildlife.

Pet waste stations, like the one shown here, are located throughout downtown Monroe. Contact your HOA and request to have them installed in your neighborhood!



BATHING YOUR PET

- If possible, bathe pets indoors in a bathtub or sink using less toxic shampoos.
- If indoor bathing isn't possible, bathe your pet in a grassy area where soapy water will have a chance to filter through vegetation and soil.
- Don't pour wash water in the street where it can enter a storm drain.
- Consider having your pet professionally groomed.



Even biodegradable soaps can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life.

PET WASTE DISPOSAL

- Pet waste and used cat litter should be bagged and thrown in the trash.
- Pick up pet waste in your yard too, especially before it rains.
- If you want to bury pet waste in your yard, it is recommended to dig a hole at least 1 foot deep and cover it with at least 8 inches to reduce the chances of contaminating nearby gardens or water sources.
- Flushing pet waste is not recommended due to the bacteria and pathogens.

PET SAFETY

- Don't leave household hazardous wastes (HHWs) such as cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers, auto fluid and pool chemicals unsecured, especially outdoors exposed to weather and wandering pets.
- Dispose of unused HHWs according to the directions on the label. Many chemicals should not be poured down the drain or thrown in your regular trash.
- If you notice staining where you park your car, it might be time for a repair. Pets can be poisoned if they ingest gas, oil or antifreeze.