

# BEWARE!

When rain washes pet waste into storm-water drains, pollutants are carried along to water bodies. Common threats to health are:

**Campylobacteria**, carried by dogs and cats. May cause a bacterial infection that frequently causes diarrhea.

**Cryptosporidium**, a parasite carried by dogs, cats and other mammals. May cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration.

**Toxocariasis**, roundworms transmitted from dogs. May cause vision loss, rash, fever or cough.

**E. coli bacteria**, found in the intestine of dogs. May cause cramping, diarrhea, vomiting and dehydration.

## CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE ANIMAL CONTROL

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[CITYOFPSL.COM/ANIMALCONTROL](http://CITYOFPSL.COM/ANIMALCONTROL)



# PET WASTE WATER QUALITY



# FACTS ABOUT PET WASTE

REMEMBER, THEY CAN'T PICK UP AFTER THEMSELVES



Every time it rains the potential exists for thousands of pounds of pet waste to wash down storm drains and into ponds, lakes and rivers. If not disposed of properly, pet waste flows directly into nearby waterways without being treated at wastewater treatment facilities.

Pet waste can contain bacteria that threaten the health of animals and people, especially children.

Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage excess weed and algae growth. This water then becomes cloudy and green—unattractive for swimming, boating and fishing. Excess nutrients are a major cause of water quality decline.

When pet waste is washed into water-bodies, the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can kill fish and other aquatic life.

## CITY OF PSL CODE

### Removal of Animal Defecation—92.16

It is unlawful for any person to allow an animal to defecate upon private property not owned by the person or upon public property, including but not limited to sidewalks and swales, without removing the defecation.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Take along a plastic bag in which to put your dog's waste. Then you may choose to put it in the trash or take it out of the bag to flush it down the toilet.

Dispose of kitty litter properly. Use a two-step process to clean out the cat box. First, scoop cat waste out of the litter and dispose of it in the trash. Then, when the litter is no longer usable, bag the litter and dispose of it in the trash, not the toilet. Litter flushed down the toilet may damage plumbing.