



# gwinnettcounty

## Department of **Water Resources**

### **When In Doubt Scoop It Up**

Sometimes a nice stroll in your neighborhood or through the park can be ruined by stepping in an unseen pile of pet waste. While this may be an unpleasant nuisance, there is a bigger problem with pet waste that often goes overlooked. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies pet waste as a form of non-point source pollution.

Non-point source pollution is caused when rainfall flows over the ground, picking up the pollution and depositing it into natural bodies of water or storm drains. When pet waste is left on the ground, bacteria, viruses and other harmful diseases found in pet feces could eventually contaminate our waterways, either directly or through the stormwater drainage system. This can occur anywhere pet waste is left on the ground, including common areas of neighborhoods and parks. The best way to prevent the contamination of surface water and the spread of diseases is to dispose of pet waste properly. If you are a pet owner, here are some methods you can use for proper pet waste disposal:

- Keep doggie bags by the door so you won't forget them on your way to the dog walk
- Keep a bin specifically for pet waste and dispose of your bags when you return from your walk
- If your dog uses the backyard, have a scooping day to collect waste and bag it for disposal
- Dispose of the collected pet waste in the regular trash, whether at home or at the park

For more information on pet waste as a pollutant, please visit [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com), select Stormwater Management from the left-hand menu, and then select Brochures, or visit [www.cleanwatercampaign.org](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.org).

