

# COMMON MYTHS ABOUT PET WASTE

## Gwinnett Water Resources

While you love your furry friends, you probably don't love picking up their waste. As unpleasant as it is, we must do it. Not only is it unpleasant to step in, but leaving it on the ground, even at home, can put our environment at risk.

Unfortunately, pet waste does not just break down or "wash away." Pet waste can take up to 12 months to fully breakdown. Additionally, when it rains, run-off water can pick up pet waste particles and transport them directly into our storm drains. Everything that enters these storm drains flows directly into rivers, lakes, and streams.

A common myth is that pet waste does not need to be picked up because no one picks up wildlife waste. This is untrue because our pets live with us and pick up bacteria and parasites that can be spread to other dogs and humans. Our pets are not wildlife. The waste produced by our pets is extra waste in the environment. While one "pile" might not seem like much, consider that on average a dog produces over 20lbs of waste in a month. This amount of pet waste can have a negative effect on our waterways.

No matter where you are such as the park, a neighborhood walk, or your own backyard, remember to scoop the poop! Together we can keep our Grayson waterways and community clean!

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