

PICK UP PET WASTE

Protect streams and Lake Erie

Pet waste pollutes stormwater

Rain and melting snow flows across yards and trails, collecting in storm drains that lead directly to streams.



Human and pet health problems

A single gram of pet waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria and can spread diseases and parasites like Giardia, Salmonella, Roundworm and the protozoa that causes Toxoplasmosis. Bacteria from dog waste accounts for up to 20% of the bacteria in urban waterways.

Nutrient problems

Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus that are found in dog waste act like a fertilizer in streams. They cause algae to grow which reduces the available oxygen for fish. The more waste, the bigger the potential problem. In Cuyahoga county there are over 90,000 dogs that produce an estimated 45 tons of solid waste each day!

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3311 Perkins Ave., Suite 100
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Phone: 216.524.6580

Fax: 216.524.6584

www.cuyahogawcd.org



Let them pick up the sticks...



...you pick up their waste

Do your part
to help keep
Lake Erie
clean



Picking up after your pet isn't hard to doo!

DOO'S

Doo be prepared and carry pet waste bags with you. Take extra bags so you don't run out (and you can help someone in need).

Doo tie the bag and make sure the bag ends up in a trash can.

Doo take it with you. When you hike, never leave a bag on the trail. There's nobody designated to pick them up.

Doo pick it up at home (or hire someone to do it) to keep your yard healthy and to protect streams.

Doo flush dog waste down the toilet. Unlike runoff after a rain, sewage from your toilet is treated to destroy dangerous bacteria.



DON'TS

Don't leave pet waste on your lawn. Pathogens are dangerous to kids playing in the yard, and they can contaminate anything edible growing in your garden.

Don't add pet waste to your compost. The compost won't generate enough heat to kill the pathogens.

Don't leave pet waste near a curb. It's bad manners and it can get washed into local waterways through the storm drain.

Don't forget to pick up after your dog in public spaces, like parks and beaches. Pet waste left near water is washed into waterways quicker and is more likely to cause bacterial problems and beach closures.