![MC900438127[1]]()

**When nature calls,**

**make sure you pick up.**

**Clean up after your pet**

Did you know that pet waste has bacteria that makes our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities? Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there’s another important reason to clean up after our pets. Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. An average size dog dropping contains 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria and other pathogens that could be a health hazard! Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and rivers untreated. Noting that 40% of households have a dog, you can imagine the potential problems if all, or even a portion of that amount of waste ended up in our surface waters that are being used for recreational and other purposes. So, what can you do? Simple. Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet’s waste promptly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches. **Pick up after your pet…and help keep our water clean.**