

DID YOU KNOW...

That picking up after your pet is a simple solution to water pollution? Like in many cities, the City of Valdosta's stormwater is untreated and goes directly into our local streams. When water washes over the land during a rain event, it picks up pollutants, such as pet waste, and carries them into our waterbodies. This is known as stormwater pollution or non-point source pollution.



WHY IS PET WASTE A PROBLEM?

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria, such as E. Coli and fecal coliform, so once it reaches our streams, it can make them unsafe for humans and our pets. Pet waste also contains nutrients that can cause excessive algae growth in a stream or pond, which can upset the natural balance of the waterbody.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PICKING UP AFTER YOUR PET?

A clean yard

Protecting the environment

Hygiene / health safety

Neighborhood courtesy

Being a responsible pet owner

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Simply pick up your pet's waste! There are several options to keep your pet's waste from being washed into our local streams such as using a plastic grocery bag or pooper scooper and then disposing the waste in a garbage can. To help promote "picking up after your pet", the Recreation, Parks, and Community Affairs Department has purchased pet waste stations that can be found in various parks within the City. For locations, call 229.259.3507.



WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO:

- Do not flush pet waste down the toilet, compost it, or dump it into storm drains or ditches.
- Do not use pet waste as a fertilizer. The bacteria in pet waste can be harmful to your health and that of your pet.
- Do not leave pet waste on streets, sidewalks or other impervious (hard) surfaces where it can wash into storm drains, ditches, or waterways.



OTHER WAYS TO HELP:

Encourage your neighbors and other pet owners to be responsible. Properly managing pet waste is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our local streams. Responsible individual actions can result in significant water quality improvement when carried out by an entire community.