

Pet Waste and Stormwater Pollution Prevention

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Dog poop left on streets, pavements, yards, driveways, or along the sides of roads does not magically disappear or fertilize the ground. Improperly disposed animal feces can be picked up by stormwater runoff and carried into storm drains or nearby washes. Storm drains do not connect to sanitary sewer systems and treatment facilities, so pet waste can pollute stormwater and present health risks to adults, children and other pets.

Dangers of Pet Waste If Handled Improperly

Pet wastes are a nuisance in both our neighborhoods and desert environment. They also present serious health risks. Pets and children playing in yards or parks where pets defecate are at risk for infections from disease-causing viruses, bacteria, and parasites found in pet waste. Diseases and parasites that can be passed from pet waste to humans include:

- Campylobacteriosis – a bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.
- Salmonellosis – the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Toxocariasis – roundworms usually transmitted from dogs to humans, often without noticeable symptoms, but may cause vision loss, a rash, fever, or cough.



For More Information About Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/stormwater.html

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality
520-724-7400
<http://www.deq.pima.gov/water/stwmgmprog.html>





Did You Know?

- A day's worth of poop from one large dog can contain 7,800,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria.
- Studies have found that roughly 40 percent of Americans don't pick up their dogs' feces.
- Its against the law not to clean up after your dog. Section 6.04.030.E of the Pima County Code states that "...it shall be unlawful for the owner or person having custody of any dog to fail immediately to remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any solid waste deposited by such dog on public property or deposited on private property without the consent of the person in control of the property."

The Fertilizer Myth

Carnivorous animals, such as cats and dogs, do not produce useable manure-fertilizer for plants. Beneficial manure-fertilizer comes from herbivores (like cows and horses) that consume vegetation and return unused waste back to the soil to be taken up by plants.

You Can Make A Difference

Take a plastic bag or paper cup along when walking your pet. Dispose of the waste properly in the household trash after securely wrapping it.

Pet waste management results in cleaner neighborhoods, with improved aesthetics and lowered potential for diseases to spread Reducing pet waste also helps to eradicate a significant cause of stormwater pollution.



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