

## 4.2-p PET WASTE MANAGEMENT

### DESCRIPTION

Animal waste contains an abundance of pathogens, nitrogen, and phosphorous that can contaminate water and cause a number of human health problems. Proper pet and animal waste management can aid in the overall reduction of pollutants and pathogens from entering surface and ground waters.

### APPLICABILITY

This BMP is suitable for all sites, particularly those on or adjacent to Stream Environment Zones (SEZs) and the backshore, where pets and animals generate biological waste.

#### Advantages

- Prevents water contamination.
- Minimizes exposure and spread of disease vectors.
- Improves community aesthetics.

#### Disadvantages

- Inconvenient to carry extra waste removal products.



### DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

When planning a recreation site or multi-family housing complex provide biodegradable disposal bags and disposal stations with signage.

### INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

#### For pet waste:

- Pet waste shall be cleaned up every few days to prevent contamination of ground water and local watersheds, and damage to vegetation.
- When walking your pet, pick up waste immediately. It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3.
  - Bring bags or other equivalent pet waste removal devices
  - Clean it up
  - Dispose of it properly

### BMP DESIGN APPROACH

Pollutant Source Control

Hydrologic Source Control

Stormwater Treatment

### SCALE OF APPLICATION

All SFR and MFR < 1 acre

MFR 1-5 Acre and CICU < 5 acres

MFR and CICU > 5 acres and all WQIPs

### TYPE OF APPLICATION

Temporary

Permanent

- Be a good neighbor, do not leave your animal waste in parks, public lands, neighbor properties, or private properties, you can be fined.
- Never hose down waste to streams, ponds, lakes, or storm drains.
- Do not allow pets in areas where sensitive plant and animal species or their habitats could be harmed, destroyed, or otherwise jeopardized.
- Pet owners are responsible for the actions of their pets and for the proper disposal of dog waste. Dogs inside the wilderness must be under the immediate control of the owner. In wilderness situations, human and canine waste must be disposed of 200 feet or more from campsites, water sources or trails or packed-out. Dig a hole at least 6 inches deep, place in waste, and replace excavated soil. Digging animals will expose waste buried in shallow holes that are less than 6 inches deep.

#### For goose waste:

- Goose waste deposited near water or in watersheds can contribute nutrients and algae growth. To help decrease geese pollution to water sources, remove waste periodically and use the following management practices.
  - Do not feed wild geese and any other wild animals.
  - Scare them away when they are around. Dog patrols are extremely successful at this.
  - Change the habitat from goose friendly to goose resistant. Geese’s favorite food is new shoots of grass. This low lying grass also allows easy access to the water for protection from predators. If you increase the height of shoreline vegetation (tall grass, shrubs), it will create a natural geese barrier. 20 to 100 feet of herbaceous vegetation at least 3 feet in height will discourage geese.

#### Other pet management considerations:

- Bathe pets indoors or have pets professionally groomed.
- Do not add domestic pet waste to a home or food waste compost pile. The pile will not get hot enough to kill disease organisms.
- Teach children and others how to properly clean up after a pet. Install signs and waste bag dispensers to inform and remind individuals of proper waste removal.
- Properly inoculate your pet in order to maintain their health and reduce the possibility of pathogens in pet wastes.

### EFFECTIVENESS CONSIDERATIONS

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Routine removal of pet waste is very effective in preventing discharge of pollutants. Installation of pet waste stations at popular recreation sites increases compliance with pet waste removal regulations.

***Some diseases and parasites associated with pet waste include:***

*Campylobacteriosis* – a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.

*Salmonellosis* – most common bacterial infection that causes fevers, muscle aches, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea.

*Toxocariasis* – roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms often without noticeable symptoms, but may cause vision loss, rashes, fevers, and coughs.

*Toxoplasmosis* – A protozoan parasite that can cause birth defects such as intellectual disability and blindness if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy.

*Ear infections, dysentery, typhoid fever, viral and bacterial gastroenteritis, and Hepatitis A are all diseases associated with animal waste bacteria coli forms being present in water. Coli forms tend to affect humans more than it does aquatic creatures, though not exclusively. One study found that a single gram of dog feces contains 23 million fecal coli form bacteria.*<sup>14, 15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>The Stormwater Manager's Resource Center, *Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet: Animal Waste Collection*  
[http://www.stormwatercenter.net/Pollution\\_Prevention\\_Factsheets/AnimalWasteCollection.htm](http://www.stormwatercenter.net/Pollution_Prevention_Factsheets/AnimalWasteCollection.htm)

<sup>15</sup>University of Wisconsin Extension, 1999 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System *Pet Waste and Water Quality* <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/pet.pdf>

