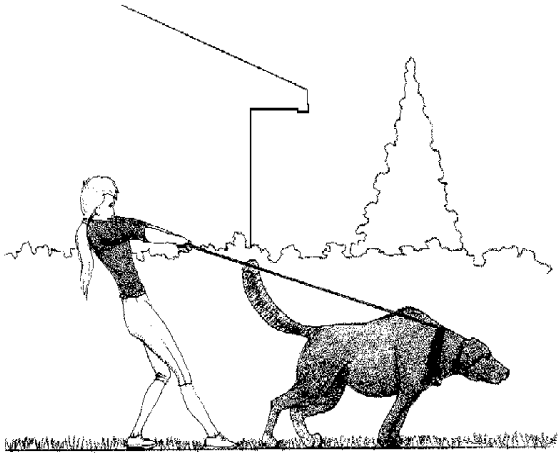


# PET WASTE and WATER QUALITY



## RECOMMENDED METHODS FOR STORM WATER PROTECTION



## Storm Water Pollution Prevention: It's Up To Us

*In the Salt Lake Valley, runoff from rain storms and snowmelt flows directly to local creeks and rivers with **NO** treatment. Pollution of storm water is a serious problem for wildlife and for the people who live near streams or use them for recreation. Some common pollutants in storm runoff include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; pet wastes; construction debris; pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.*

*Salt Lake County is working with citizens and businesses to clean up storm water runoff. We hope you will join us, by keeping pet wastes out of our rivers and streams.*



## Are You Polluting Lakes and Streams?

**PET OWNERS, TAKE HEED...***When you clean up after your pet, do you dump the waste in the street or storm drainage system? Do you leave it to decay on the sidewalk or on the grass near the street? If so, you may be causing pollution or health problems.*

*Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into the storm drainage system by rain or melting snow. Storm runoff in Salt Lake County receives **NO** treatment.*

*When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures kill fish.*

*Pet wastes also contain nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Overly fertile water becomes cloudy and green --- unattractive for swimming, boating and fishing.*

*Perhaps most importantly, pet waste can carry diseases which could make water unsafe for contact. Some of these diseases are:*

**Campylobacteriosis** - bacterial infection

**Salmonellosis** - bacterial infection

**Toxocariasis** - roundworm infection

**Toxoplasmosis** - protozoan parasite infection

**Giardiasis** - protozoan parasite infection

## What Can You Do?

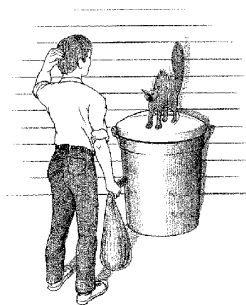
*Cleaning up after your pet can be as simple as taking a plastic bag or pooper scooper along on your next walk. What should you do with the waste you pick up? No solution is perfect, but we recommend two:*

**1. Flush it down the toilet.** *The water in your toilet goes to a sewage treatment plant that removes most pollutants before the water reaches a river or stream.*

*To prevent plumbing problems, don't flush debris or litter or cat litter. Cat feces may be flushed but used litter should be put in a securely closed bag in the trash.*

**2. Put it in the trash.** *This is probably the easiest but may not be the best solution. Put waste in a securely closed bag and deposit in trash.*

*Because pet waste may carry diseases, you should not bury it or put it in a vegetable garden. Do not put wastes in a compost pile. The pile won't get hot enough to kill disease organisms in the waste.*



*This is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm water protection measures for specific types of activities. Other pamphlets include:*

### **Landscaping, Gardening and Yard Maintenance**

### **Erosion Control**

### **Paint and Household Hazardous Waste**

### **Household and Vehicle Maintenance**

### **Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application**

*For more information about the Salt Lake County storm water quality management program and additional pamphlets, contact:*



**SALT LAKE  
COUNTY**

Salt Lake County Engineering Division  
2001 South State Street, Suite N3100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84190-4600  
(801) 468-2711

Visit the Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition  
website:

[www.stormwatercoalition.org](http://www.stormwatercoalition.org)

### **Spill Response**

Dial 911  
-or-  
State of Utah  
Environmental Response  
(801) 536-4123

### **Local Pollution Control Agencies**

Utah Division of Water Quality  
(801) 538-6146

Salt Lake City County  
Health Department  
(801) 313-6700

Salt Lake County  
Engineering Division  
(801) 468-2711



*Salt Lake County acknowledges the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information contained in this pamphlet.*



♻️ Printed on recycled paper  
3rd Printing April 2002