What to do about Pet Waste?

Fido can leave a mess on the ground. Though picking up after your pet may not be something you like to do, it is something you **should** do. After all, the bacteria in your pet’s waste runs down from the yard to the street and drainage ditch and out to the waterways that we use for drinking, fishing, and swimming. This run-off is known as **stormwater**, and it does not get treated before flowing into your local waterbodies. This bacteria that becomes part of stormwater can create hazardous conditions in the waterways that we love and enjoy.
The truth of the matter is that **having two dogs in the yard and not picking up after them, is the same as having three adults in the yard. And, that’s just gross!**

So, there are three things that you as a pet owner can do to prevent your dogs from adding pollution to your local waterbodies.

1. **Pick up after your pet and flush it down the toilet, where it will be treated by your wastewater treatment plant or septic system.**

2. **Bag your pet’s waste and put it out in the trash. Though, the waste is still going to a landfill and not being treated, it is being removed from causing harm to local waterways.**

3. **Purchase or build a homemade doggie-loo, basically a pet waste septic system. This should be located away from water sources, floodplains, and high traffic areas. To find out more, check [www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear](http://www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear).**

Not picking up after your pet is not only illegal in some communities, it’s taking for granted the precious resources that South Carolina is so fortunate to have... rivers, lakes, and oceans to enjoy!

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**Stormwater Education**

**Because We All Live Downstream...**

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