



## Did You Know . . .

In the 5,500 square miles covered by Metro Animal Control, the dog population is estimated to be 11,000, creating nearly **5,000 pounds**, or **2.5 tons**, of solid waste *every day!* This solid waste is a major contributor of pollutants to our streams and rivers. Remember, that's not counting cats, cows, horses, birds and wildlife. Each contributes pollutants to our creeks and river.



An Animal Control Ordinance governs pet waste clean up: *".....It shall be the responsibility of the owner of a dog, cat, or other animal to keep his property free and clear of animal waste.."* The owner is also responsible for removal of any waste deposited by his/her animal from public walks, recreation areas, or private property other than that of the owner.

# THANK YOU



### WATERSHED COALITION PARTNERS

Casper College • City of Casper • Natrona County • Town of Evansville •  
Town of Mills • Wyoming Department of Transportation

For Stormwater Information

visit [www.casperstormwater.com](http://www.casperstormwater.com) or [www.casperwy.gov](http://www.casperwy.gov)

Call the Stormwater Hotline: 307-235-8283

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# Doggie Do's & Don'ts



We all live Downstream

## Risks to Our Water

Did you know that “*man’s best friend*” may not be a best friend to our creeks or river?

When pet waste is not properly disposed of, it can wash into nearby waterways or can be carried by runoff into storm drains. Storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities. They drain directly into our creeks and river. Untreated animal feces can become a significant source of runoff pollution.

As pet waste decays in a waterway, it uses up oxygen, sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can be detrimental to the health of fish and other aquatic life.



Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria, parasites, and excess nutrients. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into our local waterways.

Many of our area drinking water wells are in close proximity to groundwater, our creeks and the North Platte River - - the ultimate destination of runoff from our streets, gutters, streams and from open, undeveloped areas. Pet waste present in runoff has the potential to increase the treatment cost of drinking water.

## Risks to Our Health

Pet waste, when disposed of improperly, can affect our water quality and the health of our pets as well. Our health may be at risk too. Pets and children who play in yards or in parks where pets defecate are most at risk for infection from disease-causing bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

*Diseases that can be passed from pet waste to humans include:*

**Parvo:** a virus that is transmitted through fecal matter of infected dogs. Only a tiny portion of the infected fecal matter is needed to infect a non-immune dog. Puppies are particularly susceptible.

**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.

**Taxocariasis:** roundworms usually transmitted from dogs to humans, often without noticeable symptoms.

**Toxoplasmosis:** a parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy and can also be a problem for people with depressed immune systems.



**Pets can catch diseases by coming into contact with infected feces of other pets.**



## The Solution

**You Can Make a Difference . .**

Whether you walk your dog on public streets or restrict the dog to your private property, responsible stewardship will contribute to the reduction of pollutants being carried, through runoff, to our groundwater, creeks, natural drainages, and the North Platte River.

There are several options for disposing of pet waste, and as a dog owner, you should select the method that is most practical for you. The waste can be:

- ⇒ Picked-up, placed in a plastic bag and deposited in the trash. (double bagging is preferred)
- ⇒ Buried at least 3 feet in the ground away from vegetable gardens and drainages.
- ⇒ Collected and flushed down the toilet.

Whichever method of pet waste disposal you select, being a responsible pet owner will result in cleaner neighborhoods and improved water quality through the reduction of contaminants being carried by runoff into our local waterways.

