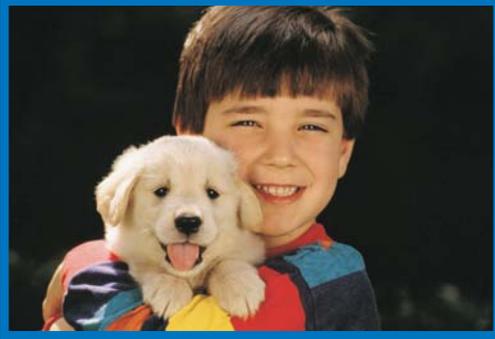


PET OWNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

City of Great Bend, Kansas

FACTS ABOUT PET WASTE

- Pet waste is a health risk to pets, people (especially children), rivers, and lakes.
- Pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, streets, and grassy areas is flushed into the nearest storm drain when it rains. It drains (untreated) to the river.
- Animal waste contains harmful bacteria and viruses, making the water unfit for irrigation, recreation, or other uses.
- Animal waste depletes oxygen in the water which is critical for healthy underwater grasses, wildlife, and fish.
- Unlike the waste of animals in the wild, suburban pets waste is highly concentrated.



Limited surface area prevents its healthy break down and dissipation, requiring pet owners to take an active role in the process.

Our community can make a difference...

Managing pet waste properly is a contribution that everyone can make to ensure the quality of our watersheds. Unlike some forms of storm water pollutants, pet waste can be easily and economically managed by individual like you!

Out and about:

When walking your dog, you can easily do the right thing. Purchase a "pooper scooper" or simply use a plastic bag. Everyone will be happier when you pick up after your pet!

At home:

When pets leave those little surprises on your lawn, dispose of it properly to protect your family, yard, and watersheds.

Loving pet owners are good stewards of the environment!



WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

When pet waste is disposed of improperly, water quality isn't the only thing that suffers - your health may be at risk.

Pets, children playing outside, and gardeners are most at risk for infection from the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.



Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste include the following:

- **Salmonellosis:** the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans from animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- **Toxocaris:** roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include vision loss, rash, fever, or cough.
- **Toxoplasmosis:** a parasite found 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.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Pet owners can help protect human health and the environment by disposing of pet waster properly.

1. FLUSH IT

Flush your Pet's waste down the toilet so it can be treated at the sewage treatment plant.

2. TOSS IT

If you dispose of pet waste in the trash, wrap it carefully to avoid spillage during collention.

3. BURY IT

Bury your pet waste in your yard, at least 12 inches deep and cover with at least eight inches of soil to let it decompose slowly. Bury the waste in several different locations and keep it away from vegetable gardens.

4. DISPENSE IT

When walking your pet, always remember to bring a disposable bag along to pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it properly (see 1-3).

IT'S THE LAW!

Not only does it benefit the environment, but it's the law in the City of Great Bend. City code 6.08.190 states that the animal owner is responsible for removal of animal excrement on public or private property not owned by the animal owner. You can be subject to a fine.



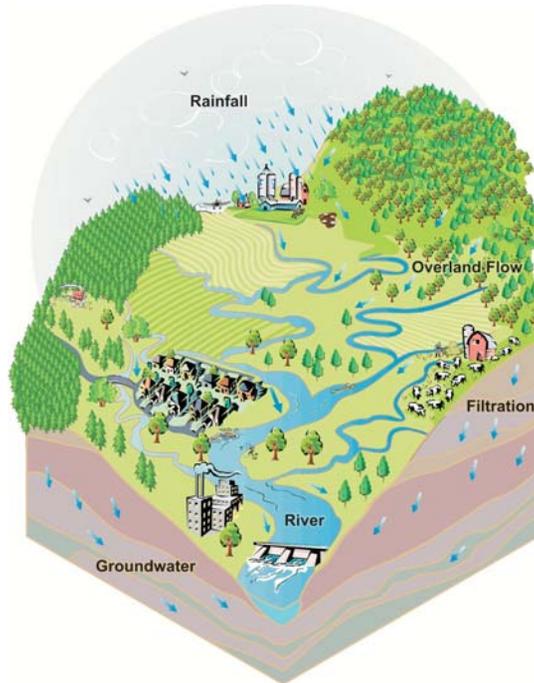
If you love them, you'll pick up after them.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains to a common point, such as a nearby creek, stream, river or groundwater. Every small watershed drains to a larger watershed that eventually flows to the ocean.

Watersheds support a wide variety of plants and wildlife and provide out door recreation opportunities.

By protecting the health of our watersheds we can preserve and enhance the quality of life for Great Bend area residents.



WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow. It flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows through the watershed, it collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This water drains directly into nearby creeks, streams, rivers and lakes *without* it receiving treatment at sewage plants.

Do you know the difference between a **STORM DRAIN** and a **SEWER**?

STORM DRAINS collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to streams and rivers.

SEWERS collect water from inside homes and business and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches creeks, streams and rivers.

Remember: *only rain water should go into storm drains...not pet waste, trash, oil, or other pollutants*

For more information regarding the Great Bend Watershed Protection Program, please call 620-793-4150



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