

Help keep our rivers & arroyos clean!



## Protect Our Rivers: Scoop the Poop



Information from City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, & NMDOT

3 simple steps to reduce pet waste pollution

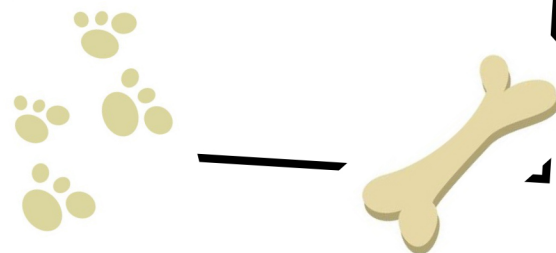
## 3 Steps to Pet Waste Management

Reducing pet waste pollution only takes three simple steps:

1. **Plan** — carry a bag with you when you walk your pet.
2. **Pick up waste** — you can put the bag right over your hand and use it as a glove then turn it inside out and close it.
3. **Dispose** of the waste by flushing it (without the bag), burying it, or putting it in the trash so it will go to a landfill.

Pet waste bags can now be found at many spots along Santa Fe's trail system and at most of the parks around the city. Look for pet waste bag dispensers when you are walking your dog.

- Nutrients from pet waste contribute to algae growth in water bodies.
- Bacteria in pet waste can make rivers and lakes unsafe for swimming.
- Picking up your pet's waste is your responsibility as a pet owner — and it's the law. City Code, Chpt 5, §7.6



[http://www.santafenm.gov/streets\\_drainage\\_maintenance](http://www.santafenm.gov/streets_drainage_maintenance)

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## How Does Pet Waste Affect Rivers?

When it rains, pet waste that has been left on lawns, trails, sidewalks or in the street washes into storm drains. The waste, along with the bacteria and other

pollutants that it carries, flows with the stormwater directly into arroyos, streams, ponds, and rivers. Most stormwater does not get any kind of treatment before it enters a water body.

Once it enters a water body the animal waste uses up lots of dissolved oxygen as it decomposes. This can deplete the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to live. Nutrients from decomposed pet waste can contribute to the growth of algae that further reduces oxygen levels. Pet waste contributes to

the high bacteria levels that make rivers and lakes unsafe for swimming or fishing.



A day's worth of waste from just one large dog can contain 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria.

## You Can Prevent Pet Pollution!

Stepping in pet waste is annoying. Pet waste smells; it attracts flies and it can be a source of parasites and infections for other pets and for children who play outside. Contact with pet waste can cause illnesses such as Giardia and salmonella. Picking up your pet's waste from other yards and public spaces is common courtesy — and it's the law in Santa Fe. It can mean cleaner and healthier neighborhoods and less water pollution.

Pet waste is a type of pollution that can easily be reduced. All that pet owners need is environmental awareness and a pet waste bag. The best kind of bag to use is a biodegradable one.

When you walk your pet, you can place the bag over your hand and use it to pick up the waste. Then place it in a trash

can, or flush it down the toilet (without the bag, of course). Pet droppings can also be buried at least six-inches deep, well away from gardens and wells. Pet waste should not be composted or used as a garden fertilizer.



Scooping the poop is the law in Santa Fe.

## Large or Small — Scoop It All!

- It doesn't matter if your pet is large or small — it can still contribute to water pollution.
- Pet waste carries bacteria and other contaminants that wash into storm sewers when it rains. These pollutants go straight to streams, lakes and rivers.
- Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly. It can make people and other animals sick.
- Leaving pet waste on your own yard can attract flies, it smells and it makes mowing your lawn a messy task.
- Pet waste may contain parasites that can make your children sick if they come into contact with it.
- Even though pet waste may seem to "just go away" it can still cause pollution.

(Please turn to back for more)



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