



pick up after **YOUR PET**

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Every time it rains, thousands of pounds of pet waste wash down storm drains and into streams, rivers and lakes—**untreated**.

A recent U.S. Geological Survey study of streams and creeks in the Kansas City region showed that bacteria associated with pet waste is the source of approximately 25% of the bacteria in samples collected from local waterways.

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

Adults working in their gardens, children playing outside and family pets are the most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Pick up pet waste from your yard. It is not a fertilizer.
- Carry disposable bags when you go for a walk with your pet.
- Properly dispose of pet waste. When putting pet waste bags in the trash, make sure the bag is carefully wrapped to avoid spilling during collection. Bury pet waste in your yard at least 12 inches deep. Keep it away from vegetable gardens.
- Contact your local parks department to inquire about providing pet waste stations in area parks, along trails and in public places where people frequently walk their dogs.



For more tips on how you can improve
water quality in your community, visit
www.marc.org/water.

Clean Water. Healthy Life.
Regional Water Quality Education Program