

**WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE LAWN,  
REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST  
GO ON THE LAWN.**



**When our pets leave those little surprises, rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. And that pollutes our waterways. So what to do? Simple. Dispose of it properly (see the back of this flier). Then that little surprise gets treated like it should.**

### **Clean water is important to all of us**

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms, gardens, lawns, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too-and that adds up to a pollution solution!

### **Why do we need clean water?**

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, marine and ground waters clean.

### **What's the problem with pet waste?**

It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It's a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it washes into the storm drain it will end up in a lake, stream or marine water. Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water with no treatment.

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This information is brought to you by the Upper Roanoke River Roundtable, and a group of public agencies working together to reduce nonpoint water pollution through education.



### **How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean?**

1) Scoop it up and flush it down the toilet. That's best because then your community sewage treatment plant or your septic system treats the pet waste.

2) Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage.

To find out more about the problems of pet waste and what you can do to prevent water pollution, please visit this web site:

[www.upperroanokeriver.org](http://www.upperroanokeriver.org)

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