

## PET WASTE MANAGEMENT

*E. coli* bacteria are found in rivers and streams throughout the state and originate in human, pet, livestock, and wildlife waste. When pet waste is improperly disposed of, it can be picked up by stormwater runoff and washed into storm drains or nearby waterbodies. Since storm drains do not always connect to treatment facilities, untreated animal feces often end up in lakes and streams, causing significant water pollution.

Decaying pet waste consumes oxygen and sometimes releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia can damage the health of fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste carries bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can threaten the health of humans and wildlife. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth.

Anyone who takes an animal off their property is encouraged to carry a bag, shovel, or scoop. Any waste left by the animal should be collected immediately.

### Steps for prevention

There are three simple ways to prevent pet waste from compromising our water quality:

1. Use a bag to clean up the waste
2. Dispose of the waste in the trash
3. Tell others to do the same

