

What you can do:

- Always clean up after your pet and dispose of the waste in the trash, in a sealed or tied plastic bag. Commercial "scoopers" can also be purchased to make proper disposal even easier. Some are disposable and come with biodegradable, sealable bags. Check pet stores and catalogs.
- Encourage your neighbor and other pet owners to be responsible; it's not hard, and it's an important part of the responsibility you have owning a pet.



Contact Information

What you should not do:

- Don't dispose of pet waste in a catch basin, storm drain, or on the street.
- Don't use pet waste as a fertilizer. The bacteria in pet waste does far more harm than good.
- Don't add pet waste to a compost pile. The pile will not get hot enough to kill the disease causing organisms.

Mount Vernon, Ohio
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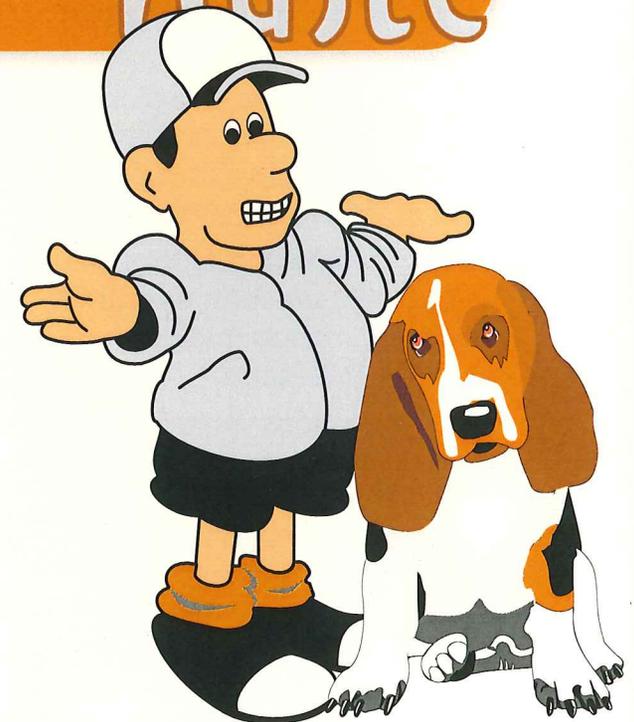


Mount Vernon

City of Mount Vernon

Storm Water Informational Flier

Pet Waste





Did you know storm water runoff in the *City of Mount Vernon* is not treated, but goes directly into our streams and creeks? That is why it is important to insure that pollutants such as pet waste, soaps, dirt from car washing, automotive fluids, trash, garbage, and chemicals do not end up in the storm drains.

Water washing over the land can pick up an array of contaminants that can run off into our streams and creeks either directly or through our storm sewer systems.

The *Environmental Protection Agency* has determined that pollution from this runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the United States.

Everyday, personal actions you take can have a significant impact on the water quality of our local streams and creeks. Remember, that while the individual household might contribute only minor amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or a city, is serious.

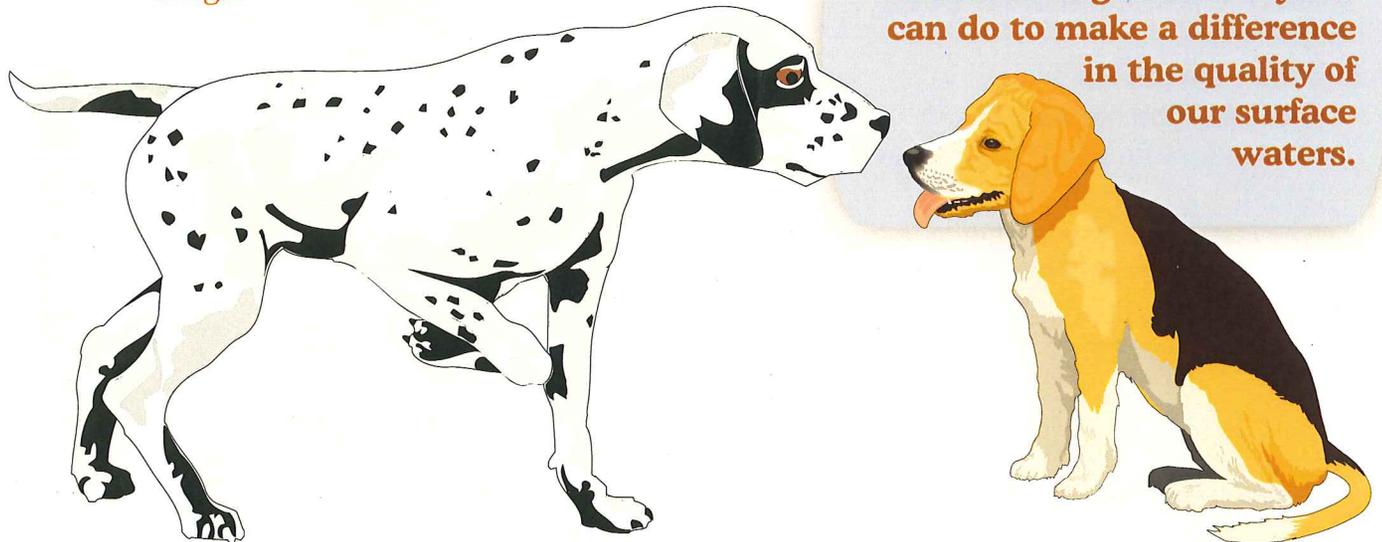
As a pet owner you can help, simply by picking up after your pet. Being a responsible pet owner not only keeps the areas you walk clean for everyone but also reduces contaminants in storm water runoff. Pet waste can carry viruses and bacteria that are extremely harmful to humans and animals that live in or near our streams.

Some of the diseases that can be spread from pet waste include:

- **Salmonellosis** – the most common bacterial infection transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include headache, fever, muscle aches, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- **Campylobacteriosis** – a bacterial infection – causes diarrhea in humans.
- **Toxocarisis** – roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include fever, rash, vision loss, and cough.

In addition to the risk of diseases, the organic matter and nutrients contained in pet waste can degrade water quality. The decay of the pet waste in our waterways uses up dissolved oxygen and releases ammonia. This process in warm water temperatures of summer can kill fish and other aquatic life.

Managing pet waste properly is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our surface waters. Proper individual actions can result in significant water quality improvement when carried out by the majority. Unlike some forms of storm water pollutants, the individual citizens of our community can easily and economically manage pet waste.



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