

## Pet Waste and Clean Water

Animal waste contains harmful bacteria, and when left on the ground, can be carried to our waterways when it rains. Follow these simple steps to protect our lakes, rivers, and beaches:

- **Dispose of it promptly and properly** – Whether in your yard or on a walk, promptly dispose of your pet’s waste in the trash.
- **Pick up before lawn watering** – Pick up after your pets before watering your yard or cleaning patios or driveways. Don’t use a hose to clean pet waste off driveways or sidewalks.
- **Share the message** – When at a dog park, community meeting, or talking with friends, spread the word about the positive impact picking up after your pet can have on water quality.
- **Don’t treat ducks or geese as pets** – Feeding ducks and geese may seem harmless, but, in fact, can be a nuisance to people and harmful to our water. Feeding waterfowl causes them to become dependent to humans. This, in turn, creates unnaturally high populations and problems in parks and lakes. Waterfowl waste can pollute our water with harmful bacteria.

