



# GCSA

Green Country Stormwater Alliance

## How does my **PET WASTE**

### harm Oklahoma's water resources?

Pet Waste contains **bacteria, viruses, parasites,** and **excess nutrients** that can harm local water quality.

The pathogens in pet waste can make **humans sick** – and the nutrients can make the **ecosystem sick** too.



**Always pick up your pets' waste.**

## Pet Waste FAQs



### **Wildlife uses the outdoors as a bathroom; so why does my pet's waste need to be picked up?**

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Pets are concentrated in urban areas, which creates excessive **nutrients** that the environment cannot absorb fast enough. Excess nutrients may lead to fish kills, inadequate oxygen in the water, and excess algae growth – All of which harm a stream's ecosystem long-term.

### **I live nowhere near a creek or river. Do I still need to pick up my dog's waste from my yard?**

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Yes, you need to clean up your pets' waste no matter what. During storms, pet waste runs off into storm drains and pollutes local streams.

### **Doesn't the water in the storm drains get cleaned?**

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This is a common misconception. All storm drains either lead to the nearest creek or the nearest stormwater detention pond – which **also** leads to the nearest creek.



For more resources, visit

**StormwaterOK.net**