Did you know that when it rains it pollutes? It all starts in your neighborhood.

Every time it rains, water runs off the land as stormwater. As it flows over rooftops, lawns, driveways and streets, stormwater picks up pollutants and debris such as dirt, motor oil, fertilizer, litter and pet waste. All of these pollutants are carried by stormwater into storm drains and drainage ditches, which flow untreated into our rivers, lakes and streams.

Stormwater pollution is the biggest threat to our waterways. It harms our ability to use our rivers and lakes for swimming and fishing, makes treating our drinking water more difficult and negatively impacts the environment.

Be the solution to stormwater pollution.

The Clean Water Campaign

The Clean Water Campaign is a collaborative multi-agency education and outreach effort coordinated by Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District for the 15-county Metro Atlanta area. The Clean Water Campaign's mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions.

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District serves as the water planning organization for the greater metropolitan Atlanta area, which encompasses the following counties and their respective municipalities: Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale.

Clean Water Campaign
40 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
www.cleanwatercampaign.com

Here's The Scoop...

Pick Up After Your Pet

CLEAN WATER CAMPAIGN
SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

What's the problem?

When you fail to clean up after your pet, the poop left on sidewalks and lawns is both unpleasant and a nuisance. But it can become an even bigger problem when it rains and is carried by stormwater into nearby rivers, lakes and streams. It can create a health hazard for people and can "doo" a lot of damage to the environment:

- A single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, some of which cause diseases in humans.
- Waters that contain high levels of bacteria and other pathogens from animal waste are unfit for human contact.
- As pet waste decays, it uses up oxygen that fish and aquatic life need.
- Pet waste contains nutrients that can cause excessive algae growth in a river or lake, upsetting the natural balance.

Did you know?

According to the American Veterinarian Medical Association, there are 72 million dogs in the United States.* The average dog produces three quarters of a pound of waste a day. That means our pets generate 10 million tons of dog poop a year!

Be the Solution to Water Pollution!

No matter if you live in the big city, small town or rural area, picking up after your pet is part of being a responsible owner. It avoids "unpleasant surprises" for those that follow and prevents your pet's waste from causing water pollution and health hazards. And in most places, it's the law.

It all begins with you. Picking up after your pet helps keep our rivers, lakes and streams healthy for recreation. It protects human health and the plants and animals that depend on clean water.

Doing the right thing is easy! Pick up after your pet every time you take them out. It only takes a minute.

Simply scoop the poop with a plastic bag and TOSS it in the garbage.

*Source: 2007 U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Source book by American Veterinarian Medical Association.

Handy Tips

- Put bags in the car or tie them to the leash, so you'll be prepared when you travel with your pet.
- Place bags by the door so you don't forget them.
- Talk to your family and friends about stormwater pollution and picking up after their pets!
- Make use of "pet waste stations" in your neighborhood or local park.

Photo provided by Adrian Danciu