



GET THE SCOOP

For more information about stormwater pollution and how you can help, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater.

To report a stormwater violation, call the Stormwater Quality Hotline at 284-6100.

Do you know how to dispose of your **pet's waste?**



What's the problem?

Pet waste left in yards, parks, and other outdoor areas washes away with rain or snowmelt into storm sewers and ditches that flow directly into our creeks.

These wastes and the pathogens they contain (bacteria, parasites, and viruses) are a major threat to our water quality.



City of Newton

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P.O. Box 426
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(316) 284-6020

www.newtonkansas.com/stormwater

Protecting our water from waste

Pet waste contains bacteria and excess nutrients that get into Sand Creek, Mud Creek, Slate Creek, and local ponds. With thousands of dogs and cats in Newton, it can really add up.

I don't walk my dog near a creek or river. How does my dog's waste get there?

When it rains, pet waste and other pollutants (litter, oil, etc.) are carried into the storm drains, through pipes, and into the creek system.

Doesn't the water go to the treatment plant before it gets to the creek?

Sewage treatment plants only process wastewater from indoor plumbing. Sewage treatment plants do not treat rain water.

Is pet waste in the creek really so bad?

Pet waste is bad for streams for two reasons. First, the bacteria in pet waste can cause illness in humans, if contaminated water comes in contact with an open wound or is ingested.

Second, bacteria require oxygen to live and, as a result, reduce the amount of oxygen in the water that is available for fish. State and federal regulations require the City to maintain a good water quality in Sand Creek.



Other animals such as squirrels, rabbits and birds already use the outdoors as their toilet. Why should I worry about my pet?

The waste from the large concentration of pets in our part of the country cannot be adequately or naturally absorbed into the environment.

Should I pick up the pet waste in my own yard?

Yes, definitely. During a rain storm, this waste can get washed out of your yard, down a street or drainage ditch and find its way into the stormwater system.

In addition, when waste is not removed, it leaves a large quantity of nutrients that can burn out grasses by overfeeding them, creating a spotty-looking yard. Pet waste can also attract rats — reason enough to keep your yard cleared.

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1. Bring a bag
2. Clean it up
3. Throw it away

Why is it better to put pet waste in the trash?

Disposing of pet waste in the trash removes the pollution source from contact with surface water and contains it in a landfill situation, where discharges are monitored and containment levels are

known. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste, cat litter, and dirty diapers.