
Pet Waste Disposal

Our town ordinance requires that if animals defecate on public property, it is the responsibility of the owner or person in control of the animal to dispose of or remove the excretions caused by the animal. Taking responsibility for cleaning up after your pet can help to prevent pointless pollution of our watershed. Consideration should be taken to determine the safest way to properly dispose of pet wastes.



Your pet can't clean up after itself.



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**Town of
Surfside Beach**

Keeping Our Water Clean



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Animal Waste and Water Quality



Pollutants found in pet waste can transmit diseases and parasites to humans. When rain washes pet waste into storm water drains, pollutants are carried along into natural water bodies. Common threats to health are:

- ⇒ *Campylobacteria*, carried by dogs and cats may cause a bacterial infection that frequently causes diarrhea.
- ⇒ *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite carried by dogs, cats and other mammals, may

cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea or dehydration.

- ⇒ *Toxocariasis*, roundworms transmitted from dogs, may cause vision loss, rash, fever or cough.



Cats

Dispose of kitty waste and litter properly. Use a two-step process to clean out the cat box. First, scoop cat waste out of the flushable litter and, flush it down the toilet, taking care to minimize the amount of litter you flush. Then, when litter is no longer usable, bag the litter and dispose of it in the trash, NOT in the toilet. Large amounts of litter flushed down the toilet may damage plumbing.

Waterfowl

Don't feed waterfowl. While ducks, geese and swans all love bread, it lacks in the nutri-



ents and roughage of their natural diet. It also tends to cause the birds to concentrate in numbers higher than can be supported by the natural food supplies. This, in turn, can cause problems in winter months when fewer people come to the park or the shore with food. In some cases, waterfowl may cease to migrate and eventually die of starvation because they become too weak to fly. In addition, large flocks of birds also create large quantities of waste and pose serious water pollution problems.