

# Stormwater Management Fact Sheet

Muncie/Delaware County/Yorktown



## Pet Waste and Water Quality



**Don't forget to pick-up after me!**

### **N**on-point Source Pollution

Everyday landscaping and lawn care can have significant impacts on water quality by contaminating water supply and harming aquatic organisms through run-off known as non-point source (NPS) pollution.

NPS pollution occurs as water moves across the land or through the ground and picks up natural and human-made pollutants, which then can be deposited into our many waterways through storm drain systems.

The water that carries NPS pollution may originate from natural processes such as rainfall and snow melt, or from human activities such as crop irrigation, lawn maintenance, car washing, etc.



### **W**hat's the problem with Pet Waste?

According to *American Pet Products Association (APPA)*, about 62 percent of all households in the United States have a pet. According to *K9Nation International, Inc.*, two-fifths of American households own a dog. Locally we know that from the 2010 census data, there are 46,516 households recorded in Delaware County. Based on the national average, we can estimate that there are 18,600 dogs in households throughout Delaware County.

The Food and Drug Administration estimates that a dog excretes 0.75 pounds of waste a day. If we were to estimate the pounds of dog waste produced daily in Delaware County, it would come out to nearly 14,000 pounds. That is close to **7 TONS** of dog waste a day that never gets treated by a Wastewater Treatment Facility!

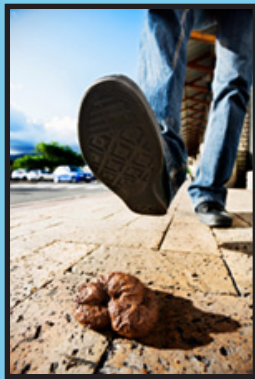
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## Did You Know Pet Waste Contains Bacteria?

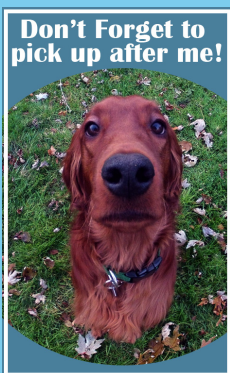
- **F**ecal coliform bacteria are bacteria that are common to the intestinal tracts of humans and animals. These bacteria can enter water bodies from human and animal waste and may cause illness and disease if they do.
- **O**ne gram of dog waste (the weight of a business card) contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria (van der Wel, 1995), almost twice as much as human waste. Keep in mind that the average dog excretes 0.75 pounds of waste per day (340 grams). That equates to 7.82 billion fecal coliform bacteria per day!



**H**elp us protect our water, creeks and rivers by following these best management practices!



- 1** Routinely pick up your animal's waste in your yard to prevent chances of infectious disease and parasites being spread or transmitted from animal to animal or even animal to human.
- 2** Throw pet waste away in a tied or sealed bag into the trash. Try and use bio-degradable bags when possible.
- 3** When walking your dog please remember to bring along a bag or pooper scooper to pick up after your pet. Please don't leave pet waste behind.



- 4** If you are a gardener, and have neighborhood cats using the bathroom in your garden, consider making an outdoor litter box and cleaning it out regularly to keep them from using the bathroom in your garden beds.
- 5** Be a pet waste super star and flush dog waste (not cat waste) down the toilet so that it may be sent to be treated at our Wastewater Treatment Facility.

References include TAPP's website [www.tappwater.org](http://www.tappwater.org) and Clear Choices Clean Water website at [www.cleanwaterclearchoices.org](http://www.cleanwaterclearchoices.org)

Visit our website for more info at [www.wishthefish.com](http://www.wishthefish.com)