

## What you can do to reduce stormwater pollution

Being a responsible pet owner means picking up after your pet. Here is how you can properly dispose of your pet's waste and prevent stormwater pollution:

- **Flush It:** The best way to dispose of pet waste is to flush it down the toilet. Remember to remove the waste from the bag or litter, before putting it in the toilet.
- **Scoop the Poop:** Bag it and put it in the trash. Landfills are designed to safely handle pet waste.



## By-laws

The Town of Ajax has created by-laws to ensure that pet owners are cleaning up after their pets and are not contributing to the pollution of Ajax creeks and Lake Ontario.

**Dog & Cat By-law** states that every owner of a dog or cat shall immediately remove excrement left by the dog or cat on property not owned by the owner of the dog or cat and dispose of it in a hygienic manner.

**Storm Sewer Use By-law** prohibits anyone from discharging, permitting or causing the discharge of pet waste into a storm sewer.

For more information visit [ajax.ca](http://ajax.ca).



For additional inquiries please call 905.683.4500 for **Engineering**. For **By-law & Animal Services** call 905.619.2529 ext. 3370.



# Stormwater Pollution Prevention: PET CARE



## Why you should be concerned!

Stormwater runoff containing bacteria and other pollutants from pet waste is a threat to Ajax creeks and Lake Ontario. Pet waste is a source of bacteria in stormwater that flows directly into our lake.

Increased levels of E-coli at our beaches make the waters unsafe to swim. We want to keep our water clean for safe drinking, swimming at our beaches, and a healthy watershed for aquatic life and wildlife.



# What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rainwater or melted snow that flows over the surface of driveways, parking lots, lawns, streets, sidewalks, and ditches. Stormwater picks up debris, chemicals, fertilizer, pet waste, and other pollutants. These pollutants are carried directly into Lake Ontario by storm sewers and/or drainage systems (ditches).

## Storm Sewer vs. Sanitary Sewer

Sanitary sewers transport wastewater from homes and businesses to sewage treatment plants where harmful waste and selected chemicals are removed before the water discharges into Lake Ontario.

Storm sewers or storm drainage systems are designed to quickly direct rainwater and melted snow off the streets and into creeks or lakes. The water travelling through these systems is not treated or cleaned in certain areas. Hazardous liquids and waste materials can then enter storm drainage systems and flows directly into lakes and creeks, causing harm to our environment.

Visit the **"Stormwater Initiatives"** section at [ajax.ca](http://ajax.ca) for more information on how the Town is working to reduce stormwater pollution.

## The Pet Waste Problem

When pet waste is left on a sidewalk, trail, street, or in a park or yard, it can be carried by runoff water into the storm drain and/or ditches where it then flow discharges into Lake Ontario and local creeks without treatment.

- Pet waste contains bacteria and pathogens that can cause serious illnesses when they contaminate our water.
- When pet waste contaminates local waters, it reduces water quality at our beaches and contributes to beach postings.
- Pet waste also contains nutrient pollutants that can contribute to excessive algae growth which disrupts the balance of the natural environment of our Ajax waterfront.



## How you can manage your pet's waste and help reduce pollution of the Ajax waterfront

- ✓ Whenever you walk your pet make sure to carry enough bags to manage and dispose of your pet's waste.
- ✓ Place pet waste in the trash so it can go to a landfill where it can be safely disposed of.
- ✓ Flush pet waste down the toilet unwrapped or out of the bag.
- ✓ Remove all pet waste from your property and dispose of it in the trash or toilet.
- ✓ If pet waste disposal is difficult or undesirable for you to do yourself, use one of the pet waste removal services in the Durham Region.
- ✓ Always pick up and dispose of pet waste your pet may leave on public or private property, such as parks, sidewalks and private yards.
- ✓ Avoid composting or burying pet waste. Pathogens from buried or composted pet waste can still pollute ground water that flows into Carruthers Creek, Duffins Creek or Lake Ontario. Compost bins do not reach high enough temperatures to kill harmful pathogens.

## Did You Know...

That pet waste contains a high concentration of fecal coliform bacteria? One gram of dog waste (the weight of a business card) contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, almost twice as much as human waste!