

RECIPES FOR A CLEANER – GREENER TOMORROW

**Animal
Waste
Collection**



**A Way You
Can Make A
Difference**

Watershed Action Team–Environmental Restoration

For more information on our environmental restoration effort, visit our website at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/resmgmt/default.asp> or to volunteer for a cleaner, greener tomorrow e-mail us at ccwater@ccg.carr.org .

Our dogs are our best friends. However, when we take them for walks outside and exercise them in public places, we need to make sure we do our civic duty and pick up after them. It's one of the least glamorous jobs yet one that is very important. It protects our quality of well water, groundwater, and streams. Having healthy, clean water keeps us and our pets active and healthy as well.

FACTS: The presence of pet waste in stormwater runoff has a number of implications for urban stream water quality with perhaps the greatest impact from fecal bacteria. Studies have concluded that 95 percent of the fecal coliform found in urban stormwater was of non-human origin; up to 20% has been identified as dog waste. Pet waste can also be a factor in over enrichment of lakes such as Piney Run Reservoir and Liberty Reservoir. The release of nutrients from the decay of pet waste promotes weed and algae growth, causing limited light penetration; therefore, affecting the growth of aquatic vegetation. This in turn can reduce oxygen levels in the water, affecting fish and other aquatic organisms.

Reasons for Picking Up After Your Pet:

- **It's the Law:** Several Carroll County municipalities have adopted regulations relating to this issue. Contact your town/city to obtain additional information or a copy of the code.
- **Environmental:** Fecal coliform from dogs has been detected in urban stormwater runoff which results in contamination of our streams, rivers, and lakes.
- **Educational:** Educate your children of the importance of proper pet cleanup as one of the responsibilities associated with owning a pet.
- **Neighborhood Courtesy:** Odors associated with pet waste can be extremely strong. On a spring day, the last thing that you want to smell when you open your windows is your neighbors' four-legged friends waste. REMEMBER your neighbors may not be as pet friendly as you; therefore, take time to be considerate of others.
- **Keep the Yard Clean:** The outside appearance of your property often reflects what the inside is like. Keep in mind, the outcome of not bagging your dog waste when having a yard party or mowing.