



## Water Pollution Prevention



### **Pet Care Tips!** Follow These Easy Tips To Help Prevent Water Pollution.

*Never let any pet care products or wash water run off your yard and into the street or storm drain!*

- If possible, bathe your pets indoors using less-toxic shampoos or have your pet professionally groomed. Follow instructions on the products and clean up spills immediately.
- If you must bathe your pet outside, wash them on your lawn or another absorbent/permeable surface to keep the wash water from entering into the storm drain.
- Even biodegradable soaps and shampoos can be harmful to marine life and the environment.



### Flea Control

Consider using oral or topical flea control products. If you use flea control products such as shampoos, sprays or collars, make sure to dispose of any unused products at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

### Why You Should Pick Up After Your Pet?

It's the law! Every city has an ordinance requiring you to pick up after your pet. Besides being a nuisance, pet waste can lead to water pollution. During rainfall, pet waste left outdoors can wash into storm drains. This waste flows directly into our waterways, Petaluma River and eventually into the San Pablo Bay where it can harm human health, marine life and the environment.

As it decomposes, pet waste demands a high level of oxygen from water. This decomposition can contribute to killing marine life by reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available to them.



### We can make a difference...

Have fun with your pets, but please be a responsible pet owner by taking care of them and the environment.



### Use Doggie Waste Bags!

Take a bag with you on walks to pick up after your pet. Dispose of the waste in the trash or in a toilet.

### *Clean Water Begins at Your Front Door!*

*Clean and healthy creeks, rivers, and bays are important to the City of Petaluma. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Pet waste and pet care products can be washed into storm drains that flow to the Petaluma River and eventually into the San Pablo Bay. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.*

You would never put pet waste or products into the River, so don't let them enter storm drains.

Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while caring for your pet.



For additional information concerning storm water, and pollution prevention events, contact:

Department of Water Resources and Conservation  
202 North McDowell Boulevard  
Petaluma, CA 94954

Tel. (707) 778-4546 Fax. (707) 778-4508

E-mail: [stormwater@ci.petaluma.ca.us](mailto:stormwater@ci.petaluma.ca.us)

**To report a discharge violation  
please call (707) 778-4546**



**Remember... Only Rain ... Down the Drain !**