



Stormwater Regulations

City of Wilmington Ordinance: PET WASTE

Effective September 15, 2009

Chapter 12 - Utilities

Domestic animal waste, otherwise known as pet waste, is a serious water quality and public health issue. Dog and cat diets largely consist of meat, meaning there is a host of harmful bacteria and pathogens present in their feces if pet waste is left on the ground. Stormwater runoff washes bacteria, parasites, viruses, and nutrients from uncollected pet waste directly into our waterways. These pathogens can cause diseases and infections in humans, recreational swimming advisories, shellfish bed closures, algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen levels, and impaired aquatic habitat. A strong pet waste ordinance encourages citizens to be responsible for cleaning up their animal's waste, in order to keep Wilmington's waterways clean and safeguard public health.



Just 1 gram of pet waste contains about 23 million fecal bacteria!

The City's Domestic Animal Waste (Pet Waste) Ordinance requires pet owners to:

- Fully and immediately clean up after pets on any public property.
(Public property consists of streets, sidewalks, right of ways, parks, plazas, stream banks, public accesses, pathways, drainageways, storm drains, creeks, officially accepted easements, etc.)
- Carry a clean-up device (i.e. bag, scooper) at all times.
(Have a clean-up device with you the moment you set foot on public property).
- Show the clean-up device to a Code Enforcement Official, when requested.
- Bag and dispose of pet waste in a closed trash receptacle or refuse container.
- Do not flush pet waste down the toilet.
(This is a Cape Fear Public Utility Authority ordinance).
- **Fines for non-compliance with the City's pet waste ordinance are \$250 per occurrence.**