

# Pet Waste **prohibited** from being flushed down toilet

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority ordinance prohibits pet waste, pet hair and kitty litter from being flushed down the toilet in New Hanover County because:

- 1) Pets eat a different type of food that causes their waste to break down slower than human waste. This can cause blockages in sewer lines and wastewater treatment processes to fail.
- 2) Pet waste and pet hair create blockages in sewer lines that cause pump stations to backup and untreated wastewater to overflow into the environment.
- 3) Animal waste contains different pathogens (*viruses, bacteria and diseases*) than humans. These pathogens do not get fully treated in the wastewater treatment process that is intended to treat human waste.
- 4) Kitty litter is also prohibited from being flushed down the toilet because it is a solid material that causes blockages in the sanitary sewer lines. Kitty litter also has animal waste attached to it which is prohibited from entering the system.
- 5) Pet waste *is* allowed in the NHC Landfill; therefore it can be bagged and put in the trash.

## Additional Info:

- CFPUA treats wastewater from the New Hanover County, City of Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach, and a portion of Pender County. (*Carolina/Kure Beach operate their own wastewater treatment plant*). Therefore, these municipality's ordinances have to be at least as restrictive as the CFPUA's wastewater ordinances.
- The New Hanover County Plumbing Inspection Department requires animal care facilities to have a screening mechanism installed on indoor drains to prevent animal waste and hair from entering the wastewater/sanitary sewer system.
- For more info about proper pet waste disposal: [wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater](http://wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater)



## Cape Fear Public Utility Authority Ordinance Appendix D – Sewer Use ordinance Sec. 20 – General Discharge Prohibitions, Section b - ii

“Solid or viscous substances in amounts which will cause obstruction of the flow in the POTW resulting in interference, this includes but is not limited to any ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, tars, plastics, wood, rags and other fibrous solids, feathers, offal, whole blood, paunch contents, **manure, hair and fleshings**, entrails, lime slurry and lime residues, beer or distillery slops, chemical residues, fiberglass, paint, paint thinners, latex, lacquers or ink residues, cannery waste, unshredded bulk solids with particles greater than one-half inch in any dimension, and discharges from photographic laboratories or X-ray equipment, which do not meet BAT limits”.

**For questions about this ordinance,  
contact the Cape Fear Public Utility  
Authority (CFPUA) at 910-332-6558.**