

Animal & Pet Waste



Poop from dogs, cats, horses or other domesticated animals can contain harmful bacteria, viruses and nutrients that can be hazardous to residents and our environment. Bacterial contamination from animal wastes can cause illness and is unfit for human contact. In addition, nutrients in animal wastes can cause excessive algae growth in our waterways and, as it decays in water, can use up the dissolved oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to breathe to survive. You must pick up after your animals to prevent their waste from entering the storm drain system.

Bag it. Trash It.

Dog poop left on the ground is not a small problem. It is estimated that the typical dog excretes between one half to three quarters of a pound of waste per day - or about 180-274 pounds per year. In San Diego alone, there are an estimated 600,000 dogs, which generate roughly 136 million pounds of poop per year. Poop left on sidewalks, streets, yards or other open areas can be washed away by over-irrigation or rain and carried into storm drains.

- ◆ Pick up animal waste promptly using plastic bags, scoops or shovels. Even in leash-free areas, like fenced dog parks, you are responsible for picking up after your pet.
- ◆ Always carry plastic bags with you when taking your dog for a walk or to the park.
- ◆ Seal dog or cat poop in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash.
- ◆ Keep dog and cat poop out of septic systems and sewer systems.



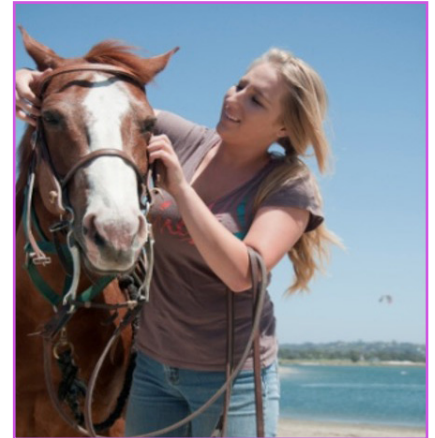
STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to discharge animal or pet waste or animal washing into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Horses, Chickens and Other Animals

It is important to remove the waste of animals, such as horses and chickens, to help prevent harmful bacteria, viruses and nutrients from entering our environment.

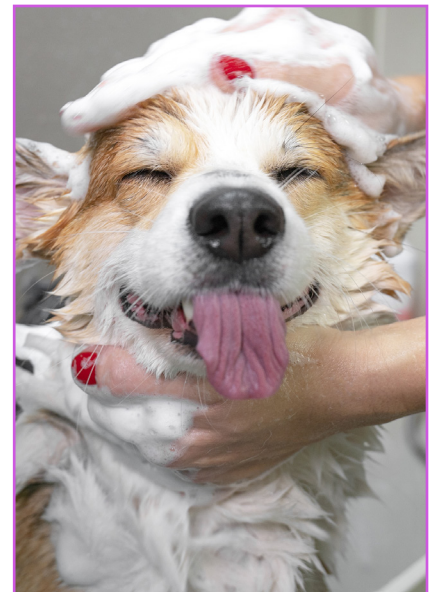
- ◆ Barns, corrals, paddocks and coops should be placed away from drainage areas.
- ◆ Collect soiled bedding and manure from stalls and coops daily and store in sturdy containers that do not leak prior to proper disposal.
- ◆ Composting manure can make a useful product! Be sure to keep compost covered, contained and away from downspouts and runoff areas. For composting information, visit: <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/residential/composting.shtml>.



Washing Animals

Contaminated urban runoff can be eliminated when proper methods are used to wash animals.

- ◆ Wash smaller animals in a sink or tub and dispose of wash water into the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ Animals may be washed on a lawn or over a landscaped area provided that the wash water can be absorbed by the soil without runoff or soil contamination.
- ◆ Water used to clean animals or animal housing must be directed to a landscaped area for absorption or captured, collected and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ Designated animal wash areas may not drain to a storm drain.
- ◆ Sewer or septic system drains within animal wash areas are subject to permitting requirements; call the Development Services Department at (619) 446-5000 for additional details.



Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants - including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids - all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

