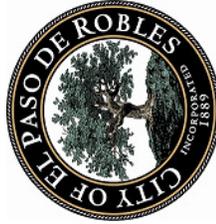


- Pet waste can lead to water pollution, even if you don't live near a waterway. During rainfall, pet waste left on the ground can wash into our storm drains and creeks which flow untreated to the ocean.
- As it decomposes, pet waste demands a high level of oxygen from the water and sometimes releases ammonia. Low oxygen and ammonia can contribute to killing aquatic life.
- Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth which degrades water quality.
- You can help keep the creeks, river, and ocean clean by following the pet care tips provided within this brochure.



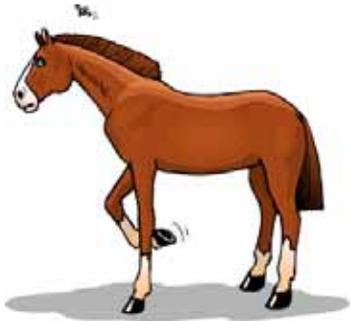
***Remember:
You are the solution to
Storm Water pollution!***

For more
information on
the City of
Paso Robles
Storm Water
program, call:
805-227-7240

Pet Care Tips to Help Stop Storm Water Pollution



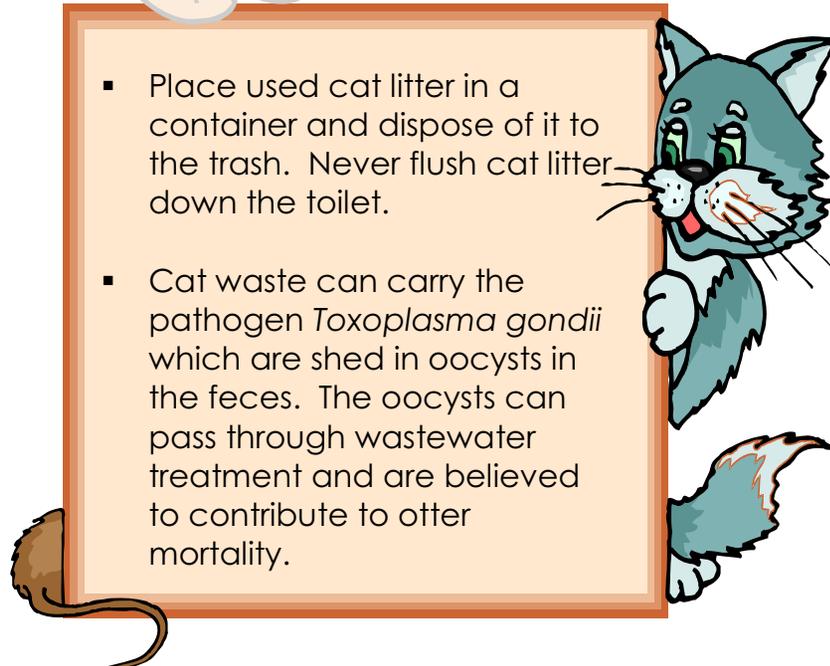
**The storm drains in our City
lead directly to the
waterways which flow
untreated to the Salinas
River.**



- Storm water is **not** treated. It flows untreated into our gutters, storm drains, channels, and eventually to the Salinas River, which flows to the ocean during the wet season.
- Contaminated storm water can cause beach closures.
- While it is impossible to control the wildlife, it is possible to reduce the amount of pathogens entering the waterways and ocean from domesticated animals.
- Whether you own small animals or livestock, improper disposal of animal waste can degrade the water quality of our waterways and ocean.

PROPER PET WASTE DISPOSAL METHODS:

- Take a bag with you on walks to pick up after your pet. Dispose of waste to the trash.
- Pick up after your pets at home. Place all pet waste into a container and dispose of it to the trash.
- Please don't throw any type of pet waste or manure into the gutters, storm drains, stream beds or dry waterways.
- If you compost manure, please place the compost pile in an area that will not drain to a waterway or storm drain.



- Place used cat litter in a container and dispose of it to the trash. Never flush cat litter down the toilet.
- Cat waste can carry the pathogen *Toxoplasma gondii* which are shed in oocysts in the feces. The oocysts can pass through wastewater treatment and are believed to contribute to otter mortality.

WASHING YOUR PETS:

- If possible, wash small pets indoors.
- If you must wash your pet outside, wash it on your lawn or other absorbant surface to avoid run-off.
- Even biodegradable soaps and shampoos can be harmful to aquatic life.
- Properly dispose of any unwanted flea control products at the local household hazardous waste collection center.



Pet waste may not be the only source of pollution in our waterways. However, it is one small source that adds up to a big problem.