

What can you do? It's simple!

**Pet waste pollution control
begins with you:**

BRING IT!

Always bring a plastic bag, or two, when you walk your dog!

BAG IT!

Use the bag as a glove to scoop the waste, then turn the bag inside out and seal.

DISPOSE OF IT!

Place the bag in a trash can or flush it, unbagged, down a toilet. Never dispose of pet waste in a storm drain as it will then flow directly, untreated, to your local waterway. Pet waste can also be carefully buried at least 5" deep, away from vegetable gardens or waterways, or even composted.



COMMUNITIES INVOLVED INCLUDE:

City of Marshfield

City of Merrill

City of Mosinee

City of Schofield

City of Stevens Point

City of Wausau

City of Wisconsin Rapids

Village of Kronenwetter

Village of Rothschild

Village of Weston

Town of Rib Mountain

Marathon County (Coordinating Agency)

WEBSITE:

basineducation.uwex.edu/centralwis/stormwater.htm

Created: March 2011



NORTHCENTRAL WISCONSIN STORMWATER COALITION

When your pets leave those little surprises, rain water or snow melt washes that pet waste and bacteria into your storm drains, which goes **DIRECTLY** to the nearby lake or river and pollutes them. What to Do? **SIMPLE!** Dispose of pet waste by picking it up and throwing it in the trash or flushing it down the toilet.



CLEAN WATER IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from NONPOINT SOURCES. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why do we need clean water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, fish habitat, commercial opportunities, drinking water, and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from **clean water**—and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, and ground waters clean.

What is nonpoint source pollution?

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. Things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens, failing septic tanks and PET WASTE. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters.

www.epa.gov/owow_keep/NPS/whatis.htm

Why you should pick up after your pet...

Pet waste is the source of two types of pollutants: **pathogens** (disease-causing microorganisms), which have a direct effect on human health, and **nutrients**, which influence the environment you live in.

1. **Pathogens**, such as Salmonella, Giardia, roundworms, and parvovirus, which can end up in our water where they may pose a health risk. Leaving the pet waste anywhere on the ground may expose children, adults and other pets to diseases. There is also a real risk of getting sick from drinking or swimming in waters contaminated by pet waste.
2. Pet waste adds **Nutrients** - nitrogen and phosphorus to the water. In large amounts, these nutrients encourage the runaway growth of algae and aquatic weeds, which can impact the health and quality of our waters, making them murky, green, and smelly.