

More Ways to Help

Whether you own a pet or not, there are many ways you can help keep pet waste pollution out of our local lakes, streams, and ocean.

Pick up pet waste promptly

And take it with you! Do not rely on others to remember or remove bagged waste left alongside trails or stowed away near access points to beaches and parks.

Make use of “Mutt-Mitts” stations

Located throughout our local open spaces, parks, beaches, and trails, these convenient stations are often sponsored by local community groups who help keep our community clean and safe. When you use one of these dispensers, note which group has sponsored the station and consider donating to support their efforts!

Use “Mutt-Mitts” only for their intended purpose: pet waste!

The use of bags to collect shells, sand, pebbles, or flowers takes these resources away from those who need them.



“Mutt Mitt” Station
CUESTA PARK, SAN LUIS OBISPO

You are the solution
to stormwater pollution.



Report spills and stormwater pollution.
Call the County Pollution Prevention Hotline:
(805) 781-5544

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
Stormwater Program

976 Osos Street, #206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
stormwater@co.slo.ca.us

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A PET OWNER'S GUIDE TO

Safe Pet Waste Management



Preventing Pet Waste Health Hazards

Pet waste piles can carry numerous types of disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and parasites that are harmful to both human health and wildlife. Picking up after your pet helps keep our County safe from:

Parasitic worms

Roundworms, Hookworms, and Tapeworms are transmitted through larvae shed in animal feces and can infect both pets and people via contaminated soils. Younger pets and children are especially susceptible to severe infections.

Bacteria & other parasites

Salmonella bacteria, Cryptosporidium, and Giardia are transmitted via contact with contaminated feces in our soil, food, and water. All can cause serious illness in both pets and people.

Toxoplasma gondii, a parasite that reproduces only in domestic cats, can cause life-threatening birth defects in pregnant women and contributes to wildlife mortality. Spread through improperly disposed domestic cat waste, it contaminates local waterways where people fish, wade, and swim. Locally, this parasite has impacted the fragile sea otter population.

DID YOU KNOW? Fecal bacteria from human and animal waste are pollutants of concern in our local creeks and beaches. High levels of bacteria pose potential health risks for humans and pets alike!



Pick up after your pet!

Do your part to protect San Luis Obispo County and everyone who enjoys our parks, trails, beaches and waterways. Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets and preventing pollution of the environment. Learn more at SLOscoopsPoop.com.



Bring a bag with you

Be prepared on walks, hikes, and trips to the park or beach. Dispose of bagged waste in trash receptacles.



Keep pet waste out of compost

Compost temperatures have to exceed 165 degrees Fahrenheit to safely sterilize pet waste—no easy task!



Keep your yard clean

Frequently remove pet waste from your yard. Pet waste is not a healthy fertilizer for plants!



Keep pet waste out of waterways

Never dispose of pet waste or manure near streams or dry creek beds.



Dispose of cat litter properly

Contain used cat litter in bags and dispose of it in the trash. Cat litter should never be flushed down the toilet!

DID YOU KNOW? According to the ASPCA, an estimated 78 million dogs and 86 million cats are owned in the United States. That's a lot of untreated poop!

