

ANIMAL WASTE BMP FACTSHEET 23

Rev. 04/2019



DESCRIPTION

The goal of ensuring proper pollution prevention practices when dealing with animal and pet waste is to prevent unnecessary and unlawful discharges of harmful pollutants into our waterways. Many parks, trails, and facilities on Fort Belvoir are pet-friendly. Pet waste that is left on streets, pavement, lawns, and trails can be picked up by stormwater run-off and carried to surrounding watersheds through storm drains. It is very important to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste to ensure that harmful bacteria and parasites are not introduced into the environment. In addition, when pet waste decomposes in watersheds, it can create detrimental algae blooms that will deplete the water of oxygen and kill fish and other aquatic organisms. If proper pollution prevention practices are not followed, harmful pollutants can migrate by means of stormwater run-off into our natural waterways.

Targeted Pollutants

Sediment	
Nutrients	X
Trash	
Metals	
Bacteria	X
Oil & Grease	
Chemicals	
Salt	

Objectives

Cover	
Contain	
Educate	X
Reduce/Minimize	X
Product Substitution	

GUIDELINES

- Carry disposable biodegradable pet waste bags with you to parks and on trails. These bags are inexpensive and often available for free at pet waste collection stations.
- Properly dispose of pet waste in trash can or at designated pet waste collection stations.
- Spread the word about the dangers of leaving pet waste exposed to stormwater. In most counties it is becoming the law that pet owners clean up after their pets so if you see something say something!
- At pet care facilities such as veterinary clinics, grooming and training facilities it is important that proper pet waste handling signs are posted and pet owners have access to either designate pet waste areas or pet waste collection stations.