

“Green” Pet Ownership
Reduce your “paw print” on the Environment

- Consolidate the trips with your pet(s) in the car with other trips (Be aware that dogs and cats should not stay in closed cars no matter what the weather.)
- Properly dispose of drugs, pesticides, shampoos, chemicals and the containers they come in safely
- Dispose of veterinary drugs including flea and tick products safely
- Shop for pet products packaged in “green” biodegradable paper
- Pick up behind your dog and dispose of waste in biodegradable paper
- Use biodegradable cat litter (clumping litter is not biodegradable)
- Dispose of cat litter in biodegradable paper
- Feed your pets organically produced foods developed and packaged by responsible companies

Pet foods can be environmentally harmful since what goes in must come out. In many cities across the U.S. contamination of rivers and streams from dog waste is an increasing problem from the biological waste and the chemicals and dyes in dog food found in the waste.

Clay cat litters which come from strip mining do not degrade. Use biodegradable cat litter and dispose of it in paper bags with your garbage.

*Flushing cat litter runs the risk of contaminating sewage with the resilient parasite **Toxoplasma gondii** so unless your cat does not test positive for **Toxoplasma gondii** do not flush your cat waste. (It does not matter whether you have your own septic system or a city or county system...waste ends up in the same place...our rivers and streams...and is dangerous.)*

E. coli, salmonella, and giardia bacteria are found in canine waste.

Canine-origin fecal bacteria as a source of pollution, is increasingly found in bodies of water into which surface water drains. Picking up your dog’s waste is an environmentally responsible practice.

(San Diego, Boulder, and Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Georgia have begun practices to “crack down” on dog pollution.)

Pet poop when enshrouded in non-degradable plastic bags takes up landfill space so avoid storage in non-degradable containers.

Christie Keith, “The Environmental Impact of Pets”, Universal Press Syndicate’s Pet Connection, November, 2007

Traci Watson, “Dog Waste poses Threat to Water,” USA TODAY