Pet Waste left on the lawns, sidewalks, and parks does not just go away or fertilize the grass; pet waste is picked up by rain and irrigation water and swept into the Los Angeles County storm drain system. The bacteria in pet waste are washed down storm drains and into creeks and rivers, and can travel in our waterways. The bacteria and risk of disease threatens the health of our community and wildlife. Follow these simple tips to be a responsible pet owner and prevent pollution and protect the health of your family and community.

What is Wrong with Pet Waste?

Pet waste, especially dog waste, is a major pollutant and contaminant of water supplies. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency views pet waste as a serious source pollution and has placed it in the same category of “non-point source pollution” as oil and toxic chemicals. Pet waste left on the streets, lawns and parks is a serious community health concern. A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause a variety of illnesses and disorders in humans. Some sources estimate that 1/3 of all water contamination is a result of dog waste entering streams and leaching into underground well water. The average dog can produce 274 pounds of waste each year. Disease from dog waste may spread to other dogs, children, and adults.

When Walking…

Bag It – Bring plastic bags with you. Use a bag to pick up the dog waste. Tie the bag closed and place it in the trash/refuse container. Never put dog or animal waste into the green waste container. This will contaminate the entire container, and possible the entire truck load of green waste, which then cannot be reused and must go into a landfill. Dog waste is a neighborhood nuisance that can wash into gutters and storm drains carrying dangerous diseases into our creeks, rivers, and oceans.