

## Stormwater—Want to learn more?

### Contact:

City of Valdosta  
Stormwater Division  
at 229.259.3530  
[www.valdostacity.com](http://www.valdostacity.com)

## Pets—Want to learn more?

### Contact:

Humane Society of  
Valdosta—Lowndes County  
307 East Jane Street  
Valdosta, GA 31601  
229.247.3266  
[www.humanesocietyofvaldosta.org](http://www.humanesocietyofvaldosta.org)

### Lowndes County Animal Shelter

337 Gil Harbin Industrial Blvd  
Valdosta, GA 31601  
229.671.2760  
[www.petfinder.com/shelters/GA53.html](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/GA53.html)

## PET FUN FACTS

- There are over 61 million dogs in the United States, producing approximately 7.2 billion pounds of waste per year.
- In the City of Valdosta, there are an estimated 5,911 dog-owning households totaling 9,457 dogs in our community.
- There are an estimated 5,174 cat owning households in the City of Valdosta totaling 10,867 cats.

*Source: U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook by the American Veterinary Medical Association.*

**City of Valdosta**  
Engineering Department  
Stormwater Division  
P.O. Box 1125  
Valdosta, Georgia 31603  
Phone: 229.259.3530  
Fax: 229.333.1884  
[www.valdostacity.com](http://www.valdostacity.com)



## The Scoop on Poop

A guide to safe and environmentally friendly pet waste disposal



Brought to you by  
**The City of Valdosta**  
Engineering Department  
Stormwater Division

**VALDOSTA**

A City Without Limits...A Region of Opportunity

## DID YOU KNOW...

That picking up after your pet is a simple solution to water pollution? Like in many cities, the City of Valdosta's stormwater is untreated and goes directly into our local streams. When water washes over the land during a rain event, it picks up pollutants, such as pet waste, and carries them into our waterbodies. This is known as stormwater pollution or non-point source pollution.



## WHY IS PET WASTE A PROBLEM?

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria, such as E. Coli and fecal coliform, so once it reaches our streams, it can make them unsafe for humans and our pets. Pet waste also contains nutrients that can cause excessive algae growth in a stream or pond, which can upset the natural balance of the waterbody.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PICKING UP AFTER YOUR PET?

A clean yard  
Protecting the environment  
Hygiene / health safety  
Neighborhood courtesy  
Being a responsible pet owner

## SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Simply pick up your pet's waste! There are several options to keep your pet's waste from being washed into our local streams such as using a plastic grocery bag or pooper scooper and then disposing the waste in a garbage can. To help promote "picking up after your pet", the Recreation, Parks, and Community Affairs Department has purchased pet waste stations that can be found in various parks within the City. For locations, call 229.259.3507.



## WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO:

- Do not flush pet waste down the toilet, compost it, or dump it into storm drains or ditches.
- Do not use pet waste as a fertilizer. The bacteria in pet waste can be harmful to your health and that of your pet.
- Do not leave pet waste on streets, sidewalks or other impervious (hard) surfaces where it can wash into storm drains, ditches, or waterways.



## OTHER WAYS TO HELP:

Encourage your neighbors and other pet owners to be responsible. Properly managing pet waste is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our local streams. Responsible individual actions can result in significant water quality improvement when carried out by an entire community.