Pet Waste and Stormwater

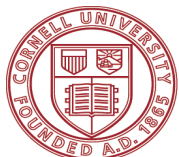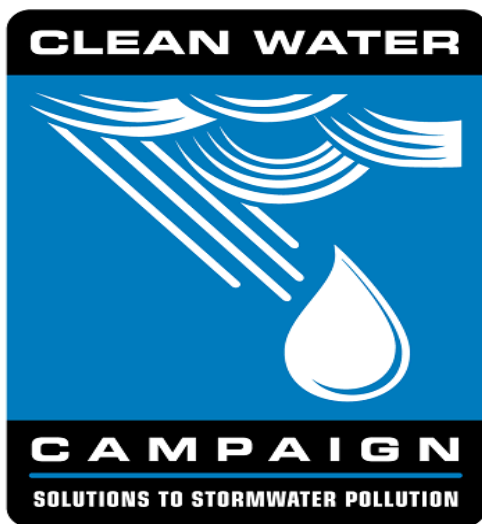CLEAN WATER CAMPAIGN
SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Saratoga County

Saratoga County Intermunicipal
Stormwater Management
(ISWM) Program
www.saratogastormwater.org

Saratoga CCE	Ballston	Ballston Spa	Charlton
Clifton Park	Greenfield	Halfmoon	Malta
Mechanicville	Milton	Moreau	Round Lake
Saratoga Springs	Saratoga County	South Glens Falls	Stillwater (T)
Stillwater (V)	Waterford (T)	Waterford (V)	Wilton

Clean water is important to all of us.

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms, lawns and gardens, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water and that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why do we need clean water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, streams and ground waters clean.

What's the problem with pet waste?

It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It's a nuisance in our neighbor-hoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick if it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in a lake or stream. People who use those waters can get very sick. Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water with no treatment.

Clean Water tip:

How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean? Here are some options.

- Scoop it up and flush it down the toilet. That's best because then your community sewage treatment plant or your septic system treats the pet waste.
- Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage.
- Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard and keep it away from vegetable gardens.

To find out more about the problems of pet waste and what you can do to prevent water pollution, call Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension's Stormwater Management Coordinator at:

885-8995
or email at
brn5@cornell.edu

WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE LAWN, REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST GO ON THE LAWN.

When our pets leave those little surprises, rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. And then pollutes our waterways. So what to do? Simple. Dispose of it properly (preferably in the toilet). Then that little surprise gets treated like it should.