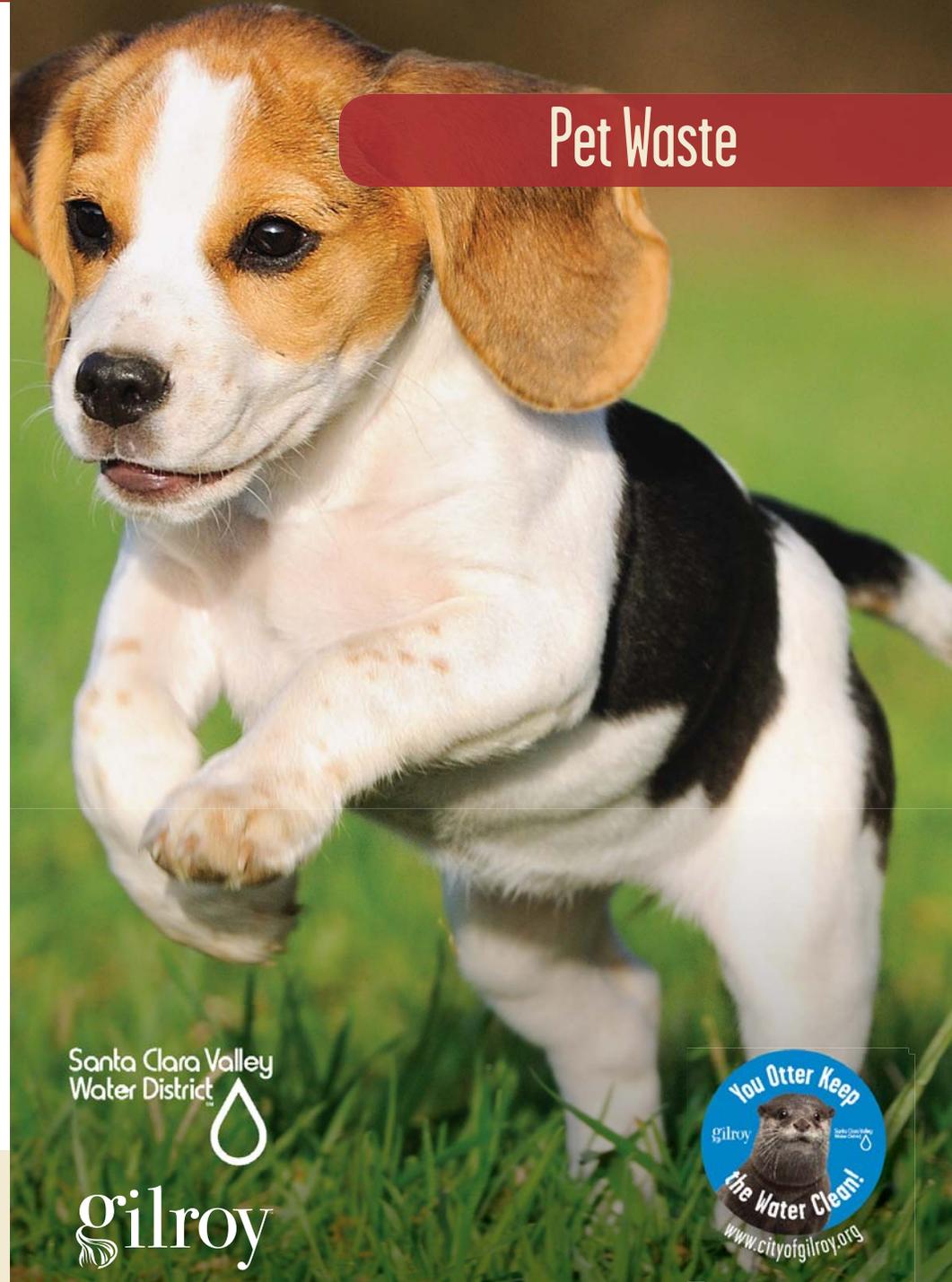




Doing the Right Thing is Easy

Whenever you walk your dog or take him outside in your yard, you can easily do the right thing. Simply scoop the poop or use a plastic bag and dispose of it in a garbage can. It only takes a minute, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you're being a good neighbor and protecting nearby streams, rivers and the Monterey Bay.

Pet Waste



Santa Clara Valley
Water District 

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Santa Clara Valley
Water District 

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Pet Waste

What is Stormwater Pollution?

Every time it rains, water runs off rooftops, lawns, driveways, parking lots and streets, picking up pollutants and debris along the way. Eventually, stormwater flows into channels, streams and on to the Monterey Bay, carrying pollution with it. This damages the water for both aquatic life and human use. Stormwater pollution is one of the biggest problems facing the Pajaro River and its ecology. Stormwater pollution also affects the beaches of Monterey Bay.

Stormwater pollution includes chemicals, heavy metals, fecal coliform bacteria, dirt, plant trimmings and debris. By channeling our stormwater off our properties and streets, we send these pollutants into natural waterways.

Urban development directs more of our rain water directly to channels, streams, and the Pajaro River. The increased flow erodes the channels, sending even more silt and debris into our water.

In response to Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, Gilroy, Morgan Hill and Santa Clara County are enacting a Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Program.

This brochure is one of a series designed to promote awareness of how you can be a part of the solution to stormwater pollution.



For more information on Stormwater Pollution Prevention please visit:

www.cityofgilroy.org/cityofgilroy/city_hall/community_development/engineering/storm_water/

www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/index.aspx?nid=89

www.sccgov.org/sites/dso/Clean%20Water%20Program/Pages/Clean-Water-Program.aspx



How does Pet Waste Cause Pollution ?

Pet waste left on sidewalks, streets, yards or other open areas can be washed away and carried by rainwater into storm drains and drainage ditches. Eventually, the contaminated runoff travels into nearby streams which flow into the Pajaro River and on into Monterey Bay.

A single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, some of which can cause disease in humans. Waters that contain high levels of bacteria are unfit for human contact.

In addition to containing harmful bacteria, decaying animal waste uses up dissolved oxygen that fish and aquatic life need. Pet waste contains nutrients that can cause excessive algae growth in a stream, river or lake, upsetting the natural balance.

Stormwater run-off is not treated, and bacteria washed into the river system are carried to the Monterey Bay. In drier weather, bacteria are trapped in stagnant waters where they may continue to multiply before being washed into the Bay.

Be Part of the Solution!

Pick up after your pet, even in your own back yard. This will help keep the bacteria and waste out of nearby storm drains, drainage ditches, streams and the bay. It helps keep waters healthy for recreation. It protects human health and the plants and animals that depend on clean water.

If you have larger pets or livestock, this can be more challenging. There are other brochures that provide guidance on managing large animal wastes.

Ranches and farms need to manage animal waste correctly, too. Never dispose of animal waste by dumping it into the storm drain, drainage channel, or creek.

