## **Pet Waste Management**

## What is Pet Waste Management?

Pet waste management is the process of keeping our neighborhoods and parks clean of pet waste. Pet owners are required to bag or seal pet waste and then properly dispose of it in the garbage. Bag dispensers are installed in certain areas to encourage bagging of pet waste for proper disposal in the trash.

Fort Bend County MUD No. 50 regulations require pet owners and caregivers to immediately remove solid pet waste from any public or private property not owned or possessed by that person.

## Why is Pet Waste Bad?

When it rains, stormwater can wash the pet waste left on lawns or sidewalks into the waterways and then degrade water quality in several ways.

Pet waste can contain bacteria, parasites, and viruses, which can be harmful to public health and the environment. As pet waste decomposes in the water, it can deplete oxygen levels and release ammonia, both of which can be harmful to aquatic plants and animals. Pet waste can also add too many nutrients to the water which causes algae blooms. These turn the water green, murky, and smelly. Recreational activities such as hiking and biking near the waterway are adversely affected.

Pet waste is also unsightly and smelly when it is left on the ground. Cleaning up after your pets improves the beauty of our community, decreases pollution, and reduces the possible spread of diseases.





## How You Can Help

Incorporate small, preventive measures into your everyday activities. Here's what you can do to help:

- Carry a plastic or biodegradable bag with you when you walk your pets.
- Bag or seal the pet waste immediately.
- Dispose of the pet waste in the garbage or toilet (without the bag).
- Do not compost the pet waste if your pets are meat eaters.
- Contact the District by calling our customer hotline at 281-290-6500 when you see people who do not pick up their pet waste.



For more information on the Fort Bend County MUD 50 Stormwater Management Program please visit: <u>https://fortbendmud50.com/stormwater-issues-and-actions/</u> To report stormwater quality concerns, please visit <u>https://fortbendmud50.com/contact-us/</u>