

## Health Risks

Dog and cat pet feces must be handled carefully due to diseases and parasites that are carried by these meat-eating animals. Parasites can live for a long time, be difficult to kill, and cause severe harm to human health. They can also contaminate food products grown in soil used for burying the feces.

Therefore, dog and cat feces should not be mixed in compost, or put out for collection with yard debris.

### **Always!**

- Use rubber gloves, a plastic bag, or a scoop when handling any feces for any of the disposal methods.
- Wash your hands thoroughly afterward.
- Do not allow children to play with dog or cat feces, or anywhere near it.
- Encourage children to wash hands thoroughly and do not allow them to eat dirt.

### **Sno Animal Resource Hotline:**

(425)388-3440

### **Snohomish Health District:**

(425)339-5250



## Dead Animals

You can bury a dead animal on your own property, but not in a food-growing area. Be sure to bury the carcass deeply, covering it with at least 2 feet of soil, to prevent other animals from disturbing it. It must be buried 100 feet away from any source of water, not in a high water table area, and with at least 3 feet of vertical separation from any groundwater. It also should not be buried if it is diseased. Within cities and towns, please check local regulations at your city hall regarding size and weight limitations.

You can also handle the remains of a dead animal that is 10 lbs. or lighter by double wrapping it in plastic bags, tying it tightly, and putting it out with your garbage or self-hauling it to a County Solid Waste facility.

If the animal is over 10 lbs., some veterinarians will accept and handle the remains for a fee. (Check your Yellow Pages).

Snohomish County Animal Control will also take animals for a fee.



**Snohomish County**

**Public Works**

*Solid Waste Management*

(425)388-3425, press "0", or 1-800-562-4367 Ext. 3425

TTY Users call WA Relay Center at 711

**Let's discreetly  
discuss Fluffy's  
pet  
waste...**



## **Disposing of Pet Waste**

You don't really *like* to think about pet waste or dead pets - no one does. But you love your little Fluffy or Puff and you want to be a responsible pet owner. So please read this information carefully, follow the recommendations, and help protect human health and the environment. Thanks. (Woof!)

# Safe Disposal Methods

## ■ Scoop the Poop

As a pet owner, it is up to you to make sure that your pet's feces are picked up from both home and public areas.

Dog waste is raw sewage containing harmful organisms that can harm children and can contaminate soil and water. It's also disgusting on someone's shoes or feet! When you let your pet out in your backyard or take it for a walk, use a plastic bag to scoop up the poop, tie the bag off tightly, and discard it into a garbage container. In some cities this is a law.

## ■ Trash Disposal

Pet feces and cat litter can be put in the garbage under the following conditions:

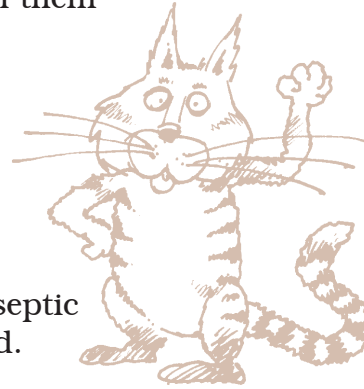
- Do not mix with yard debris.
- Must be 10 lbs. or less, double bagged in plastic and tied tightly. Please force out all excess air from the bags before tying, to prevent "bursting action" at the transfer stations when the bags are compacted.



## ■ Flushing Pet Waste

Another way to dispose of dog and cat feces is to flush them down the toilet.

However, do not flush feces if your household is on a septic system because the waste may clog up your septic tank and drainfield.



With cat waste, make sure only feces (not cat litter) go down the toilet because the clays in litter can clog up the toilet.

## ■ Why Not Bury or Compost It?

Pet waste is raw sewage. More than 126,000 dogs live in Snohomish County, producing the waste equivalent of 32,000 people. More than 20 tons of dog waste is dropped in our county every day, carrying *E. coli*, *Giardia*, and other harmful micro-organisms. Landfills are designed to contain such substances.



Keep water and soil clean and children healthy by disposing of animal feces in the garbage or toilet.

## Other Animals

You can compost the waste of vegetarian animals such as sheep, chickens, gerbils, rabbits, horses, cows and goats.

Do not bury the waste of carnivorous (meat-eating) animals, including dogs, cats, ferrets, and raccoons, among others. Also, do not use pig waste.

Human waste must go down the toilet only, including feces from baby diapers.

## Large Quantities

If you have over 10 lbs. of pet waste, please call (425)388-3425, press "0", for disposal options.

