The City of Hollister Municipal Code provides specific regulations regarding the disposal of pet waste:

**SECTION - 8.32.060**

A. It is unlawful for any person owning, leasing, occupying or having charge or possession of any property in the city, or any other person, to cause, or to permit, or to maintain thereon the following:

14. Disposal or presence of oil, grease, other petroleum products, noxious chemicals, pesticides, or any gaseous, liquid or solid waste in such a manner as to constitute a health, fire or environmental hazard, or which degrades the appearance of or detracts from the aesthetic and property values of neighboring properties;

**SECTION - 13.04.600**

A. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any provision of this chapter, or the requirements or conditions set forth in a permit duly issued, or who discharges wastewater which causes pollution, or violates any cease and desist order, prohibition, effluent limitation, national standard of performance, pretreatment or toxicity standard, including nondischarge pretreatment standards, shall be liable to injunctive relief for noncompliance imposed by the city against which the violation occurs.

Said liability or penalty may be in a sum of not to exceed six thousand dollars ($6,000) a day for each violation in which such violation occurs.

**SECTION - 12.32.060**

A. Except in a city-owned dog park, no person shall possess a dog or domestic animal in a park unless said animal is in a cage, humanely confined in a vehicle, or on a leash of no more than six feet in length.

Any person in possession of a dog or domestic animal in any park as allowed in subsection A of this section shall pick up and dispose of, in an appropriate and sanitary manner, any fecal material dropped by such animal.

No person shall possess any animal in any park in any area where the possession of such animal is prohibited and signs to this effect are posted.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to seeing eye dogs under control of physically challenged persons.
Storm sewers are not connected to wastewater treatment plants or septic systems like the drains in your home. When pet waste is tossed into a storm drain or left on the sidewalk, street or yard, it is carried by rainwater through the storm sewer system directly into our local water bodies, without any treatment!

Pet waste is a threat to human and environmental health because it contains harmful bacteria and pathogens, some of which can cause serious diseases in humans.

Pet waste also contains many other nutrient pollutants, which contribute to excessive algae growth in a water body, upsetting the delicate balance of the natural habitat.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

That there are an estimated 74.8 million dogs owned in the United States, which create 72.5 billion pounds of dog waste every year!

**THE PROBLEM**

Bacteria and other pathogens from pet waste can be harmful to humans by introducing numerous diseases and parasites, such as:

- **Campylobacteriosis.** A bacterial infection that frequently causes mild to severe diarrhea in humans. It is often accompanied by a fever.

- **Cryptosporidium.** A gastrointestinal disease accompanied by diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration and fever. It may last up to two weeks or occur intermittently for up to a month.

- **Salmonellosis.** This is the most common infection transmitted to humans. Symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, fever, muscle aches and headaches.

- **Toxoplasmosis.** Contracted by a parasite found in cat waste. Most individuals experience flu-like symptoms. Serious complications may occur for individuals with suppressed immune systems or infants born from infected women. Tapeworms and other parasitic worms can also be transferred to humans via pet waste causing fever, weakness, loss of appetite, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

**HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME?**

Being a responsible pet owner means picking up after your pet. Here is how you can properly dispose of your pet’s waste and prevent local water pollution:

**Flush It:**
The best way to dispose of pet waste is to flush it down the toilet. Just remember to remove the waste from the bag or the litter before putting it in the toilet.

**Scoop the Poop:**
Bag it and put it in the trash. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste and cat litter.

**THE SOLUTION**

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION BE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

PREVENT STORM WATER POLLUTION

Informational material adapted from City of Atascadero Stormwater Management