

## Clean Ocean Action's ~10 Tips for Pet Owners~



**1. Scoop the poop.** Pet waste contains bacteria, parasites, and nutrients that can contaminate nearby waterways. While on walks, collect waste immediately using a scooper or reusable bag and bring home for proper disposal (see below). Clean your yard promptly.

### **2. The scoop on where to put the poop.**

***For Dogs:*** Instead of throwing dog waste in the garbage, flush it down the toilet (without the bag). Dog waste can also be deeply buried away from food gardens. Dog waste digesters can be installed in a yard to break down solid waste.

***For Cats:*** Cat litter is problematic and should be sealed in a bag and thrown in the garbage. Do not flush cat waste or litter down the toilet, as parasites from cat waste can affect shellfish and cat litter can seriously damage your septic system and/or clog the wastewater treatment facility.

**3. Use bio-degradable kitty litter** made of renewable products, such as sawdust, wheat, corn, pine, cedar, or recycled newspaper. Use baking soda to control odor. Cat litter and waste should be sealed and thrown in garbage.

### **4. Use eco-friendly products for your home.**

Eco-friendly cleaning products are gentle on the planet and on your critters fragile senses. Also, consider the environment and your pet when purchasing deicers in the winter. Rock salt and salt-based ice-melting products can cause health problems to your pet (if accidentally ingested) while contaminating wells, drinking supplies, and nearby water bodies. Choose environment and pet safe deicers that are salt free.

### **5. Care for your lawn (and your pet) without using fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides.**

Pets like to play, smell, and often times eat grass ~ so keep it free of harmful chemicals which will also reduce polluted run-off.

### **6. Use your consumer power when buying pet**

**items.** Purchase all-natural pet food and products. Pay attention to the packaging; buy your pet food in bulk and in recyclable, biodegradable, or no packaging.



~over please~


**7. Recycle household materials such as bedding, bowls, and toys for your pets**

to minimize potential waste. Old blankets and towels can be used as beds; socks and old leashes can be converted into toys; old wood and carpet can be constructed into a scratching post for your cat.

**8. Keep a Tight Leash!** Prevent your cat from wandering outside and keep your dog on a leash to protect native wildlife and plants, as well as prevent their waste from polluting nearby water bodies.

**9. Keep your pet squeaky green!** Bathe your pet indoors to prevent runoff to your local waterway. Use shampoos and grooming products that are not harmful to the environment, such as biodegradable soap and products free of phosphates and sulfates.

**10. Flea the use of chemicals.** Flea and tick treatments are not regulated and can contain toxic chemicals that can poison you and your pet. Check out [www.greenpaws.org](http://www.greenpaws.org) for a list of chemicals (commonly found in flea/tick repellents) and consult your vet. Instead of chemicals, consider dipping a fine toothed flea comb in warm soapy water and comb through your pet's hair/fur. Regularly wash your pet, as well as any bedding. If your yard is infested with fleas, visit your local lawn care center for some beneficial nematodes, a micro-organism that eats flea larvae.

 *Our Habitat is Down the Drain*  
*Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the #1 cause of coastal water pollution. This pollution has many sources, including stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By making small changes we can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.*

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:



[www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)

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