Pet Waste Management

Today on Gardening in a Minute: pet waste management.

Always pick up after your pet, even in your own yard.

Pet waste can contain bacteria and parasites that can infect animals as well as people who spend time in the landscape.

These microscopic dangers include E. coli, giardia, and hookworm, causing uncomfortable symptoms or even severe illness.

Pet waste left on the ground can wash into storm drains, which empty into the nearest body of water and can potentially harm the animals there. The nutrients in pet waste also encourage weeds and algae growth, and use up oxygen in the water.

So when you walk your dog or let him out in your backyard, make sure to pick up his waste, tie it in a plastic bag, and place it in the trash. Never put pet waste in your compost.

For more information about pet waste management and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.