PET WASTE

| WATER PROTECTION GUIDE |

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that feeds all the water running under it and draining off of it into a body of water. It combines with other watersheds to form a network of rivers and streams that progressively drain into larger water areas. All land in Boulder is part of a watershed, so protecting the land keeps the water clean.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria, parasites, and nutrients that do not belong in our waterways. This includes pathogens that cause serious illness in humans.

Approximately 77,349 dogs live in Boulder County. Rain and melting snow flows across yards, dog parks, and trails on its way to creeks by way of our streets and storm drains. Nutrients from pet waste can cause harmful algae growth and negatively affect aquatic life. Bacteria and pathogens in dog waste can increase E. coli in our streams which can cause serious illness in humans upon contact or incidental ingestion of water.

WHAT IS A E. COLI?

E. coli is a bacteria in the digestive systems of mammals and birds. Colorado uses the presence of E. coli in surface water as an indicator of pollution by feces. E. coli can be dangerous, but it also indicates the potential of other pathogens that can make people sick, such as giardia and cholera.

Potential sources of E. coli include:

- Pets
- Trash and urban wildlife
- Livestock
- Faulty sewers and septic systems

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On the trails
Pick up pet waste and place bags in a secondary container for easy carrying back for proper disposal.

Never leave bags on the side of trails – there is no one designated to clean them up.

Keep your dog leashed unless allowed otherwise; your dog should always be within sight and able to hear your call.

At the park
Be prepared, carry bags with you to pick up pet waste.

 Carry a few extras with you in case you meet someone in need.

Collect your pet’s waste in a bag and deposit it in a trash can.

Learn more about our watershed and how you can help protect it at KeepItCleanPartnership.org