



**C**lean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Pet waste and pet care products can be washed into the storm drains that flow to the ocean. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never put pet waste or pet care products into the ocean, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information, please call the **Orange County Stormwater Program** at **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455) or visit **www.ocwatersheds.com**

To report a spill, call the **Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline** **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455).

**For emergencies, dial 911.**

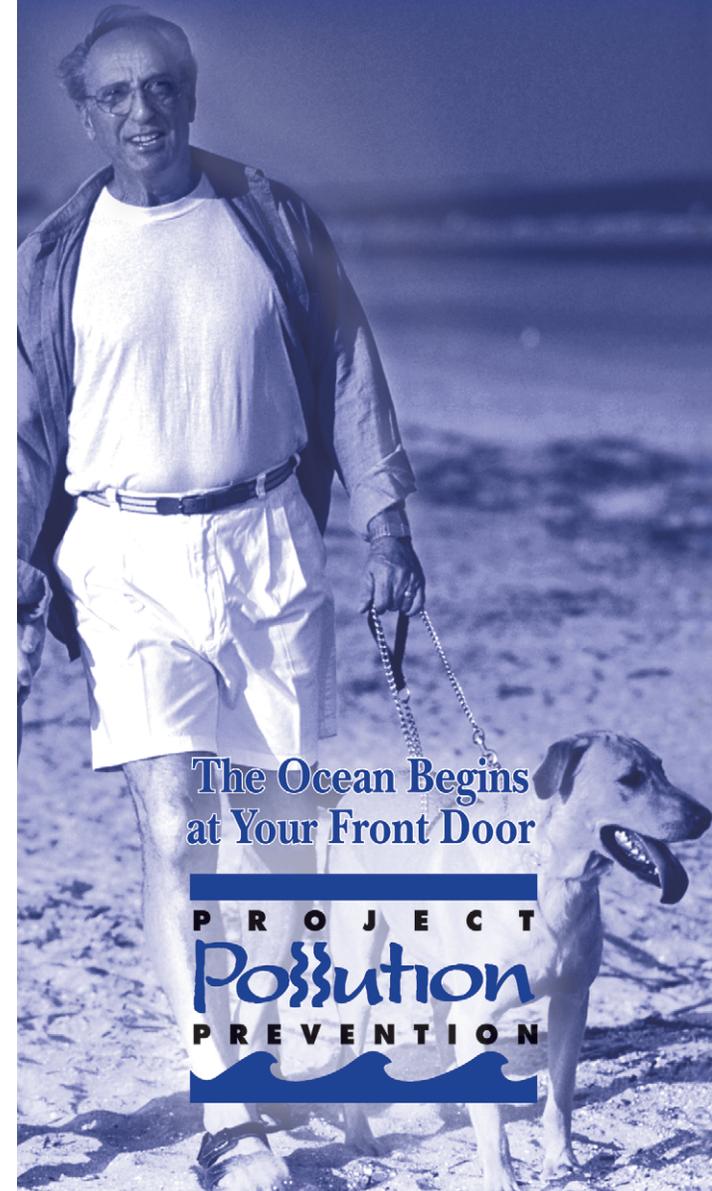
The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while caring for your pet. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



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Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

## Tips for Pet Care



The Ocean Begins  
at Your Front Door

PROJECT  
**Pollution**  
PREVENTION

# Tips for Pet Care

Never let any pet care products or washwater run off your yard and into the street, gutter or storm drain.

## *Washing Your Pets*

Even biodegradable soaps and shampoos can be harmful to marine life and the environment.

- If possible, bathe your pets indoors using less-toxic shampoos or have your pet professionally groomed. Follow instructions on the products and clean up spills.
- If you bathe your pet outside, wash it on your lawn or another absorbent/permeable surface to keep the washwater from running into the street, gutter or storm drain.



## *Flea Control*

- Consider using oral or topical flea control products.
- If you use flea control products such as shampoos, sprays or collars, make sure to dispose of any unused products at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. For location information, call (714) 834-6752.



## *Why You Should Pick Up After Your Pet*

It's the law! Every city has an ordinance requiring you to pick up after your pet. Besides being a nuisance, pet



waste can lead to water pollution, even if you live inland. During rainfall, pet waste left outdoors can wash into storm drains. This waste flows directly into our waterways and the ocean where it can harm human health, marine life and the environment.

As it decomposes, pet waste demands a high level of oxygen from water. This decomposition can contribute to killing marine life by reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available to them.

Have fun with your pets, but please be a responsible pet owner by taking care of them and the environment.

- Take a bag with you on walks to pick up after your pet.
- Dispose of the waste in the trash or in a toilet.

