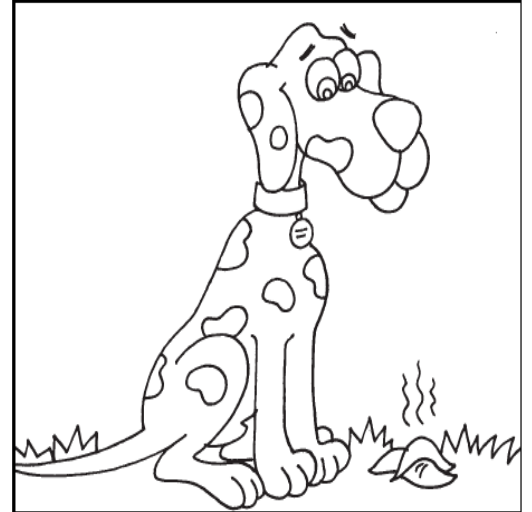


Don't let your Dog be the Downfall of our Rivers

The population of domestic pets in residential areas make a significant contribution to phosphorus and other nutrient loads in our waterways and therefore to algae growth. For residential areas, estimates of 10 to 20% of phosphorus loads are from pet faeces, with the remainder mainly from garden fertilisers. Nutrients from dog droppings left on footpaths, gardens and parks can be washed into waterways via the groundwater, runoff and street drains.

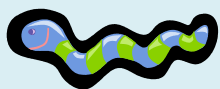


There are steps you can take to reduce the phosphorus input that your pet makes to the rivers and thus the incidence of algal blooms.

Take newspaper or a compostable bag with you when you go for walks & ***pick up after your dog!***

Don't let droppings get into street drains or decompose in gardens or on the lawn.

Worm farms are an excellent way to compost what you collect. Worm farms turn your dog's droppings into nutrient rich, odourless, pH neutral, worm castings.



This is the best form of soil conditioner known.

However, don't put your dog's droppings in the worm farm after the dog has been wormed (all your worms will die!) and don't put the worm castings on plants you intend to eat eg. vegetables and herbs.

Alternatively, put your pet's droppings in a rubbish bin.

Produced as part of the Phosphorus Awareness Project by the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare.

For more information please contact Natasha on 9458 5664 or go to www.sercul.org.au.