Pets & Yards

Pets enjoy a healthy yard too.

However, pets can damage our lawns and some yard care products aren't safe for pets.

The Scoop on Poop

- The average dog produces ¾ of a pound (or 340 grams) of waste a day— that's 274 lbs. a year!

- One gram of dog waste (the size of a pea) contains 23 million fecal bacteria which can negatively impact our health and the health of our animals too.[1]

- 2 to 3 days of pet waste from 100 dogs can close 20 miles of waterway to swimming and shell fishing due to high bacteria (*E.coli*) and nutrient levels.[2]

Dog Spot

Do you have round brown dead spots surrounded by healthy lawn? This can be caused by high concentrations of nitrogen in your dog's urine (typically female dogs).

- Talk to your vet about dietary supplements and make sure your dog is hydrated.

- Dilute the area with a garden hose.

- Use fescues and perennial ryegrasses which are more tolerant of high nitrogen than other grasses.

[1] van der Wel, B. 1995. Dog Pollution. *Hydrological Society of South Australia.* 2(1)12.
[2] US EPA. 1993. *Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Source Pollution in Coastal Waters.* 4-125.

How to keep pets safe from yard products

- Understand the risks and proper uses of yard chemicals by thoroughly reading the labels.

- Use the least toxic product available to control pests. If using one, talk to your landscaper about other methods of pest management that are pet-friendly.

- Keep your pets away from treated areas.

- Start YardScaping to reduce your use of yard chemicals by improving soil health and growing a stronger, more pest-resistant lawn!

What should I do if my pet has been exposed to lawn chemicals?

If you suspect your pet has been exposed to lawn chemicals, immediately contact your veterinarian, emergency veterinarian clinic, or call:

National Pesticide Information Center:
1-800-858-7378

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center:
1-888-426-4435

The 24-hour emergency contact number listed on the product label (not available on all products).

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT