

## Stormwater Pollution



As rainwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, such as pet waste and other pol-

lutants. Unlike water in sanitary sewers, anything that enters a storm drain flows directly to natural water bodies like lakes, rivers, and streams without being treated. Contaminants harm fish and wildlife and pollute the water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

**Discharge of pollutants into the storm drainage system or surrounding water bodies is prohibited. Release of any 'non-stormwater' discharge is illegal.** (County Ordinance Ch 8.28 found at <http://qcode.us/codes/placercounty/>)

You would never put animal waste or products into lakes or streams, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution while maintaining your animals.



### To report a water quality problem

Call the Placer County Stormwater Quality at (530) 745-7555

Or Email:  
[stormwtrquality@placer.ca.gov](mailto:stormwtrquality@placer.ca.gov)

### Placer County Department of Public Works and Facilities Stormwater Quality Division

3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220  
Auburn CA, 95603

Phone: (530) 745-7557

Or visit us on the web at  
<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Stormwater>

### Additional Resources

Free On-site Assistance:  
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service  
(530) 885-6505  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

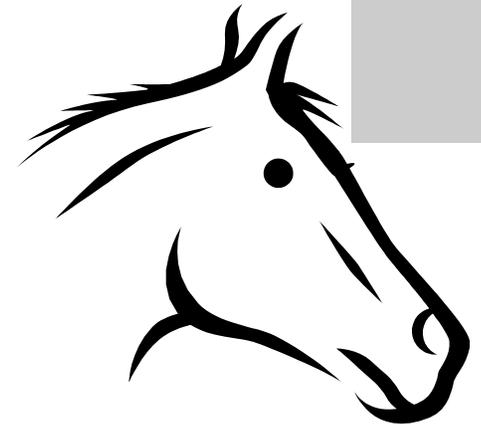
Free Pamphlet from High Sierra RC&D:  
"Horse Paddocks - Managing Your Horses Environment"  
(530) 823-4703 ext. 18  
[www.placer.ca.gov/Stormwater](http://www.placer.ca.gov/Stormwater)

Free Download: "Horse Keeping - A Guide to Land Management for Clean Water"  
[www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org/strat.html](http://www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org/strat.html)

State Water Quality Control Board - Confined Animal Facilities Information  
[www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water\\_issues/dairies/index.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/dairies/index.shtml) &  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/encyclopedia/lb\\_animalwste.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/encyclopedia/lb_animalwste.shtml)

## Water Quality Friendly Animal Care

Tips to Help You Prevent Water Pollution



Placer County  
Stormwater Quality Division

December 2015

# Steps for Animal Care

## Protecting Surface Water



### Pasture Management

Never allow animal waste or care products to enter the street, storm drain, ponds or waterways. Some environmental consequences of animal keeping activities that may contribute to water pollution are:

- Sediment caused by eroding areas such as overgrazed pastures, trails, or bare soil in paddocks, turnouts, corrals and arenas
- Polluted water draining from manure piles and animal wash areas
- Excessive animal waste that can wash off pastures during storms
- Removed or trampled vegetation at streamside areas that can lead to stream bank erosion
- Removal of vegetation which filters and absorbs water pollutants from runoff

### Control Erosion

Bare ground can cause accelerated erosion which will wash soil from areas such as arenas, paddocks, turnouts, and pastures. Severe erosion can form gullies, destabilize creek banks, and damage roads. Some basic ways to prevent accelerated erosion are:

- Keep areas well vegetated and restore bare areas with vegetation. Plants, such as various grasses, can hold soil in place and help water infiltrate into the ground
- Maintain vegetative filter-strips and riparian buffers near creeks, ponds or



- Manage pastures to prevent heavy grazing. Avoid soil compaction and excessive removal of vegetation by timing the use of pastures and controlling the number of animals. Rotate animals to allow pastures to “rest” from grazing.
- Maintain a strip of dense grass down slope of bare areas such as paddocks and turnouts to help trap sediment. Keep creek banks vegetated to hold soil in place, trap sediment, and provide valuable wildlife habitat.
- Use proper construction techniques. Re-vegetate areas disturbed by construction or grading. During construction install and maintain measures such straw bales to trap sediment and slow the movement of water or straw mulch to prevent erosion.

### Keep “Clean” Water Clean

It is important to keep “clean” water clean by keeping it away from areas that can be a source of “pollutants” such as manure storage areas, animal wash areas, or other high-use areas. Here are some basic ways to keep “clean” water clean:

- Keep “clean” water away from areas with pollutants. Use berms, grassed waterways, underground pipelines, or other methods.
- Minimize disturbances to wetlands, riparian areas and meadows.
- Limit impacts by avoiding grading and/or clearing during the winter months.
- Maintain vegetation and replant bare areas.
- Control excessive runoff from water troughs.

### Manure Management

- Remove manure regularly - daily is best.
- Cover stored manure with a roof, tarp or other cover and keep away from water bodies or ditches. Direct runoff away from manure storage areas.
- Never hose down animal holding areas!

Sweep or shovel manure to prevent wastes from ending up in a stream or storm drain.

- During heavy rainfall, consider indoor feeding, a practice that keeps manure under a roof and away from runoff.

### Use and Disposal

- Compost soiled bedding and manure. See <http://compostingcouncil.org> for more information.
- Donate composted material to local greenhouses, nurseries and botanical parks.
- Transport manure to topsoil companies or composting centers.

### Animal Grooming

- Use less-toxic alternatives for grooming. Even biodegradable products can be harmful to water bodies and the environment. Follow instructions on the products and clean up spills.
- When washing animals, such as horses or dogs, either wash over a grassy area which allows wash water to seep into the ground or wash in an area that is routed to the sanitary sewer. Do not let wash water enter the storm drain or any bodies of water.
- Conserve water by using a spray nozzle with an automatic shut-off. Turn off the water or kink the hose when not in use.

### Dog Waste Management

- When walking your dog carry plastic bags to pick up pet waste. Pet waste left on the ground can be washed into nearby storm drains, lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Flushing small animal pet waste is the best disposal method, or you can secure it in a plastic bag and dispose of it in your trash.

