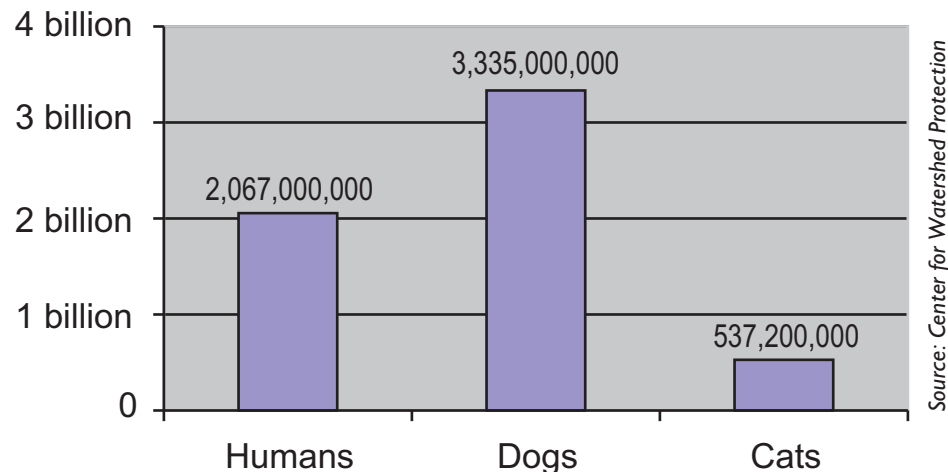


# What Does It All Mean?






Fecal coliform is found in human and animal waste. Although it's harmless, its presence in water samples indicates that harmful bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms may be present as well. In large numbers, these pathogens in shellfish growing areas and recreational waters can cause health risks—in fact, fecal waste has already forced the closure of shellfish beds in Birch Bay as well as Drayton Harbor and Portage Bay. As a responsible watershed resident, please do what you can to control this pollutant—including picking up after your pets.

**Daily Estimated Fecal Coliform  
Per Individual**



Source: Center for Watershed Protection

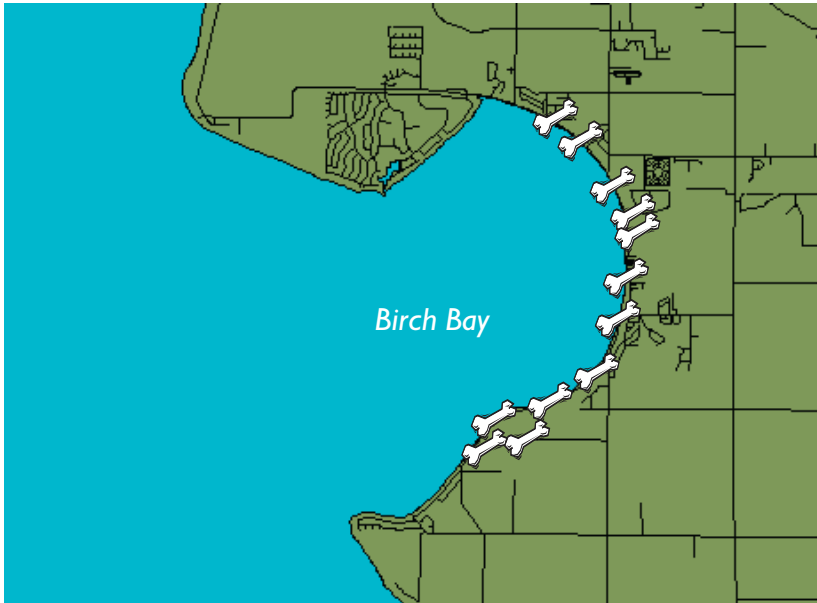
# How Does Picking Up After Fido Protect Birch Bay Shellfish?

-  Studies indicate a single gram (about the weight of a paper clip) of dog feces contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.
-  Various studies conducted in urban areas show that dogs are a major source of coliform bacteria and other germs.
-  Elevated bacteria levels are often found in untreated stormwater runoff in urban areas.
-  Stormwater runoff typically goes directly into your neighborhood creeks, lakes, and bays—including Birch Bay.
-  High levels of bacteria in marine waters with shellfish beds can make clams and oysters unsafe to eat.











So don't forget...picking up after Fido will help reduce bacteria in your local creeks and Birch Bay AND keep your shellfish safe to eat!

## Mutt Mitt Stations in Birch Bay



### Shoreline Locations:

-  Cottonwood Beach (north & south locations)
-  Dirty Dog Wash
-  Mariner's Cove
-  Birch Bay Visitor Information Center
-  Terrell Creek at Leisure Park
-  Alderson Road Beach Access
-  Jackson Road Beach Access
-  Morrison Ave (behind C Shop)
-  Birch Bay State Park (4 locations)



### For More Information

Whatcom County Public Works  
(360) 676-6876

June 2010



## Stop, Stoop and Scoop!

## No Bones About It!

It's important to pick up after your pet for lots of reasons...besides that it's just plain icky on those unfortunate occasions when you step in it.

Please "stoop and scoop" because Fluffy's and Fido's droppings contain pathogens that pose a risk to human health. When animal waste is left to decompose, the pathogens can end up in stormwater runoff, creeks and eventually shellfish in Birch Bay.

A better plan is to scoop the poop, bag it, and secure it tightly before disposing of the bag in the garbage.