



## 01 SMALL SNIP, BIG DIFFERENCE

FEBRUARY IS SPAY/NEUTER MONTH

Every day in the United States, more than 70,000 puppies and kittens are born, while only about 10,000 humans enter the world. That imbalance is a major reason animal shelters across the country, including Tulsa, continue to see high numbers of pets in need of homes.

One of the most impactful ways you can help is by spaying or neutering your pet. This simple step helps reduce shelter overcrowding while also improving your pet's quality of life. Spaying or neutering your pet can:

- **Help them live a longer, healthier life**
- **Reduce the risk of certain cancers and reproductive diseases**
- **Decrease aggressive behaviors, including dog bites**
- **Lower the urge to roam or escape in search of a mate**
- **Help pet owners avoid citations for having an unsterilized animal**

In the City of Tulsa, spaying or neutering pets isn't just recommended, it's required by law. City ordinance mandates that all dogs and cats over six months of age be spayed or neutered, unless an exemption permit has been approved. While Tulsa Animal Services does not provide spay or neuter services directly, pet owners are encouraged to contact a licensed veterinarian or a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the area. For more information, email: [tawinfo@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:tawinfo@cityoftulsa.org)

01 SPAY OR NEUTER PETS

Help control pet overpopulation by following City ordinances.

02 DISPOSING PET'S WASTE

Prevent bacteria in stormwater by picking up pet waste.

03 BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Follow a few simple precautions to prevent backflow in your home.

04 BULKY WASTE

Schedule curbside pickup for oversized household items.

+ PLUS: KEEP FATS, OILS, GREASE OUT OF SEWERS.

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## 02 PET WASTE DISPOSAL

HELP KEEP STORMWATER RUNOFF CLEAN

Stormwater runoff from our yards enters the city's storm drain system, which empties into the creeks, streams and rivers in the city of Tulsa. Pet waste enters these waterways by way of stormwater runoff.

The City of Tulsa monitors and regularly samples streams and stormwater outfalls for dozens of potential pollutants and uses bacterial source tracking to help identify pollutant sources. In several Tulsa creeks, test results show that human and dog wastes are the leading sources of bacterial pollution.

As a pet owner, you can help keep creeks free of pollutants by picking up your pet's waste. Take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along on your walk. To reduce potential health hazards to our streams, here's how to dispose of pet waste:

- **Flush it into the sanitary sewer,**
- **Bury it in your yard, or**
- **Throw it in your gray trash cart.**

Save our streams. Disposal of anything other than stormwater to the storm drain system is a violation of city ordinances. To help keep our waterways clean and healthy, report to 311 any sewer overflow or unusual discharge to the storm drain system.

## 03 BACKFLOW PREVENTION

### PROTECT OUR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

The City's Water and Sewer Department is dedicated to ensuring that the water delivered through the public water system to your home is safe to drink. However, situations outside of the City's control sometimes occur and can jeopardize the quality of your drinking water by allowing backflow into the public water system.

Backflow is the reverse flow of water from a private plumbing system back into the public water system. Backflow occurs because of back-siphoning or backpressure. Back-siphoning happens when there is a loss of pressure in the water system and something foreign is sucked back into the water supply. Backpressure occurs when the pressure in premise plumbing is greater than the pressure coming in from the water main.

Follow these simple precautions to help protect our drinking water system from backflow events:

- **NEVER** submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks or other containers.
- Always keep hose ends clear of possible contaminants. Leave an air gap of 2 inches or more between the hose end and the receptacle.
- Don't tamper with the temperature and pressure valves on hot water tanks. These valves will safely discharge when there is thermal expansion in the tank, helping to protect your hot water heater from damage while limiting the conditions for a backflow event to occur.
- Buy and install inexpensive backflow-prevention devices, called atmospheric vacuum breakers, for all threaded faucets around your home. These devices are readily available at hardware stores and home improvement centers.
- Don't use garden hose spray attachments to apply chemicals without using a backflow prevention device at the faucet. Lawn or cleaning chemicals are toxic, and many can be fatal if ingested.
- If you have a lawn irrigation system, have your backflow preventer tested annually by a qualified professional to ensure it's working properly.

## TRAP THE GREASE

### AVOID COSTLY HOME PLUMBING BILLS

Fats, oils, and grease aren't just bad for your arteries; they are bad for the sewers, too. When food scraps are washed down the drain, the fat and grease from the food can build up in your sewer lines, causing raw sewage to back up into homes, businesses and the environment. Anything with a fat content can contribute to grease-clogged pipes. Avoid costly home plumbing bills by following these three simple steps:

1. **TRAP** bacon grease or meat drippings in a sealable container and toss in the trash.
2. **SCRAPE** all food scraps in the compost or trash.
3. **WIPE** all greasy, oily, creamy or buttery food residues from dishes before you wash them.

Running hot water and soap down the drain does not prevent grease build-up and blockages.

You also can recycle your liquid cooking oils at the City's Household Pollutant Collection Facility, 4502 S. Galveston Ave. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease, visit: [www.trapthegreasetulsa.com](http://www.trapthegreasetulsa.com)

Despite all these preventive measures, if you see, hear or smell something you think might be a sewage overflow or backup, report it immediately by calling (918) 586-6999. The City of Tulsa has a customer service employee available around the clock and, if needed, a work crew is available to inspect and take action.

## 04 TRY BULKY WASTE PICK UP

### USE FOR ITEMS TOO LARGE FOR CART

Keeping Tulsa clean starts at the curb. The City of Tulsa's Bulky Waste Pick-Up program offers residents a convenient way to dispose of large household items and oversized yard waste that don't fit in standard refuse carts.

To schedule a bulky waste collection, call 311 at least two business days before your primary service day. The collection will occur on your primary service day. The fee is \$10 per eight cubic yards.

Bulky waste must be at the curb by 5 a.m., not within 4 feet of a fence or trash and recycling carts and away from vehicles, water or gas meters, telephone or cable boxes and not under power lines or trees.

#### Items Accepted:

- Household appliances and furniture, including mattresses and sofas
- Electronic equipment such as televisions (limit 4), computers, and computer monitors
- Limbs, tree trimmings, and stumps cut to less than 5 feet long and less than 18 inches in diameter
- Remodeling debris from small projects performed by the resident at the address where materials are set out – no more than one cubic yard
- Tires, without rims - limit 4
- Latex paint – up to 10 gallons
- Glass - MUST be taped on both sides or separately contained

#### Items Not Accepted:

- Automobile parts
- Batteries
- Liquids
- Poison
- Explosives
- Remodeling and demolition debris such as shingles, wallboard and lumber
- Loose glass