

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

### **What's the Harm in a Little Pet Poop?**

Picking up after your pets and responsibly disposing of their waste improves the aesthetics of La Verne's public space, enhances public health, and keeps shoes everywhere safe. But, did you know that picking up pet waste is also a critical element in improving surface water quality?

Our City has many hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, and roofs which alter the natural environment, compared to our nearby foothills and mountains. This means that when it rains, any excess pet waste left on the ground has less of a buffer in order to reach our surface waters. In a perfect natural environment the vast majority of the pollutants (primarily nitrogen and phosphorous) contained in pet waste would filter out into the ground before reaching our creeks, washes, rivers, and reservoirs. However, the hard surfaces throughout the City provide avenues for pollutants or pet waste to reach our flood control system and eventually be sent to our natural waterways. There these pollutants are major factors in causing detrimental environmental effects such as algal blooms, fish die offs, and ocean dead zones near our bay. Stresses caused by pollutants can also lead to beach closures, economically stress coastal businesses, and cost taxpayers a significant amount to cleanup. While it may be a bit off-putting to deal with a little pet poop, it can aid in big environmental improvements.

So next time you're out with your pets, take a plastic bag along or use those provided at many La Verne parks. Pick up your pet's poop, flip the bag inside out, and properly dispose of the waste in a trash can. As always, thanks for making La Verne a more sustainable community.

### **Free Oil Recycling Events**

During the Cool Cruise Car Show on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, come visit the City of La Verne booth for FREE do-it-yourself oil changing supplies and much more!

