

Pet Care and Pet Waste

FACT

In 2008, Calgary was home to 110,242 dogs and 107,514 cats.

- City of Calgary, 2008 [Civic Census Overview](#)

Cat and Dog Waste

This material can be placed in a [digester](#), whereby the waste is digested rather than composted and is primarily reduced to water. The nutrient rich water enters the soil under the base of the unit and unlike traditional composters, there is not a need to manually turn the waste. For a step-by-step guide on making your own pet waste digester [click here](#).

Alternatively, dog and cat waste can be flushed down the toilet. The Biosolids removed at the wastewater treatment plants are recycled on Calgary area farmlands through the City's innovative Biosolids reuse program called [Calgro](#).

FYI

Most cat litter is made from bentonite clay, which is strip-mined. This extremely destructive technique uses heavy equipment to strip off layers of earth to uncover clay seams, many of which are quite thin. The process has wiped out thousands upon thousands of hectares of land and removed millions of tonnes of earth. Luckily, though, alternatives exist. Some of the alternatives available in Calgary include:

- [Swheat Scoop](#) – a cat litter made from naturally processed wheat (non-food grade) and is 100% biodegradable and compostable. It is also “certified flushable” when used as directed.
- [Yesterday's News](#) – Purina's cat litter made from recycled newspapers.
- [Feline Pine](#) - a litter made from compressed sawdust reclaimed from sawmills. It is 100% natural and compostable.
- One Earth Cat Litter – uses fast clumping corn cob granules (Available at Community Natural Foods).

Cat Litter

The natural alternatives (see above) can be added to a digester with the other cat waste. Otherwise, if the litter is free of cat feces, the natural litters can be composted. It should be kept separate from compost that may be used on vegetable gardens to prevent the transmission of oocysts (the dormant stage of [Toxoplasmosis](#)), which is sometimes found in cat feces (oocysts is killed when digested properly). The finished product is perfect for ornamental gardens.

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Green Calgary offers a variety of programs to help achieve mandates of waste reduction and water protection including Environmental Education; Healthy Homes Calgary; Commercial Environmental Services (formerly Calgary Materials Exchange); EcoStore - selling environmental products that reduce our environmental footprint; Information Services & E-newsletter.

809 Fourth Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 0K5

Phone: [403] 230 1443

Fax: [403] 398 0605

info@greencalgary.org

www.greencalgary.org