

# THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS

The truth is that waste is part of our lives, including our pets' droppings. Instead of using your waste bin, here are some greener solutions for disposal.

## IS IT OK TO USE THE KERBSIDE-COLLECTED GREEN BIN?

Many councils will accept pet poo if placed in your green organics bin. These councils include:

- Adelaide City
- Campbelltown
- Gawler
- Marion
- Norwood Payneham and St Peters
- Port Adelaide Enfield
- Salisbury
- West Torrens
- Adelaide Hills
- Charles Sturt
- Holdfast Bay
- Mitcham
- Onkaparinga
- Playford
- Prospect
- Unley

Several factors determine whether councils will accept the waste, such as how frequently the green bin is collected and how and where it is processed. Commercial composters use intense heat to neutralise any harmful bacteria so the compost is safe to use on plant and food crops. Your average backyard compost cannot achieve these extremely high temperatures.

However, in country areas many councils use a composting process that does not allow pet waste to be collected in the green organics bin. For more details about your green organics service, call your local council.

## NO PLASTIC BAGS



Please place all pet waste loose into the bin and NOT in plastic bags, even those bags labelled biodegradable.

If you have collected your pet's poo in a plastic bag, these will need to be emptied into green bin and the bag placed in the waste bin.

To reduce odours, cover with other organic materials such as leaves, lawn clippings and prunings.



## CAN I PUT PET POO IN MY COMPOST BIN?



For all herbivore pets like sheep, chickens and guinea pigs the answer is easy – place in your compost bin.



Dog, cat and other meat-eating animal poo carry harmful bacteria so should not be placed in your compost bin.

However, you can purchase or set up systems designed to deal with this waste. Search 'pet waste composting' online for information on how to purchase or make your own.

Remember, compost made at home from your dog and cat waste is great for ornamental plants but is NOT suitable for food crops.

## WHAT ABOUT PET HAIR?

Pet hair can safely be placed in worm farms, compost bins and green organics bins to be composted.

## CAN I PUT POO IN MY WORM FARM?



Use paper based kitty litter and your worms will eat this too. Worm castings from pet waste are only suitable for ornamental plants and not food crops.



Beware worming medications. These will kill your worms in much the same way as they do worms in your pets. If your pet has been wormed recently, allow the poo to age for a month before feeding it to the worms.

## Unsure about which bin a specific waste item should go?

Check out the **RECYCLE RIGHT** online search engine that will provide details specific to your council. Visit [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right) or call **1300 137 118**.



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