



We understand how significant your pet is to your life.

“DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED OR UNUSED PHARMACEUTICALS” FACT SHEET

(www.epa.state.il.us/land/)

DON'T FLUSH! The age-old advice to flush pharmaceutical waste* is currently considered to be the least desirable thing to do. Even though it is a low cost alternative and prevents unintended use by others, flushing or pouring pharmaceutical waste down the drain has resulted in traces of painkillers, estrogen, etc. to be present in water samples in 30 states.

- **Dispose of unused pharmaceuticals in the trash.** It is better to dispose of household pharmaceuticals than to hang on to them, especially if there is risk of accidental poisoning or diversion. To safely place them in the trash, do the following:
 1. Remove or mark over all labels that indentify the materials as pharmaceuticals or that could provide personal information about you
 2. Render the products unattractive to children and thieves by dissolving them in a small amount of water or rubbing alcohol, or by grinding them up and mixing them with coffee grounds or kitty litter
 3. Put them in a second container or small opaque plastic bag and hide them in your trash

- **NEVER BURN** pharmaceutical waste in a burn barrel.

* Pharmaceutical waste includes over-the-counter as well as prescription medications, varying in form from solid pills, capsules, creams, liquids and aerosols.