

Fact Sheet Pet Waste & Water Quality



Get the Scoop About Your Dog's Poop

Pet Waste Equals Pollution

If pet waste is not disposed properly, harmful nutrients and bacteria can end up in our water bodies. Excessive growth of algae and weeds may occur causing water to become murky, green, and foul-smelling. Your favorite fishing spot, swimming hole, or boating waters may no longer be a place you want to visit anymore.

Is it a BIG Problem?

Let's do the math. According to statistics collected by the American Veterinary Medical Association, 36.5% of households in the United States own at least one dog. That's roughly 69,926,000 dogs.

The Food and Drug Administration estimates that a dog excretes **0.75 pounds** of waste per day. That could equate to over **400 pounds** of pet waste per year per household.

69,926,000
_____ x 400
27,970,400,000 billion pounds!

Pet Waste Can Harbor Fecal Bacteria

When fecal bacteria levels are high:

- Waterways become unsafe for swimming or wading;
- Waterways become unsafe for fishing;
- Waterways become unsafe for boating;
- People are exposed to infectious diseases;
- Pets are exposed to infectious diseases;
- Aquatic life can be harmed.

Salmonella, E. coli, Giardia and Toxoplasma are just a few of the harmful organisms found in animal waste. Diarrhea, nausea, stomach cramps, bloating, fever, vomiting, fatigue—no one wants that, and neither does your dog.

So What Can You Do?

- Clean up after your dog EVERY SINGLE TIME after a walk or in your yard;
- Carry extra doggie waste disposal bags, and share with other dog owners;
- Dispose of waste bag wrapped properly in the trash;
- Avoid disposal in toilet or compost pile.



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**Pet Waste doesn't
go away unless
you take it away!**

New York's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) provided the grant and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) administers the funding for this project. This grant supports planning for local stewardship of the river environment to help achieve the goals of the 2015-2020 Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda, and also aligns with Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) strategies.