

Don't let your pet's waste be non-point source pollution!

Scoop the poop!

Pet waste can be a significant source of bacteria and excess nutrients in our waters.

Leaving pet waste on the ground allows excess bacteria and nutrients to wash into the stormwater drainage system and eventually into our local streams, rivers, harbors and Long Island Sound.

Bacterial pollution is one of the most common problems facing Connecticut waters. Excessive levels of bacteria are found in many of the state's polluted waters. Sources of bacteria vary with location, but in urban watersheds, pet wastes can be a significant source.

Pet waste, whether left on paved surfaces or dumped outside, does not just go away and "disappear". Pet waste is often washed into storm drains, where it eventually enters our streams, rivers, harbor, and eventually Long Island Sound.

Bacteria in pet waste can contaminate our water, making it dangerous for drinking and swimming. Most beach closures are due to excessive bacteria level in the water. Excess bacteria can also contaminate shellfish beds, making it hazardous to harvest and eat the shellfish.

Cleaning up after pets and properly disposing of their waste products helps protect our waters.

What to do?

- ✓ **Bring plastic bags or a "pooper scooper" with you when you walk your dog.**
- ✓ **Bring the waste home and flush it down the toilet. This is the best method because your septic system or the City's sewage plant will treat the waste, or**
- ✓ **Seal the waste in a plastic bag and put it in the garbage.**
- ✗ **Never dump pet waste or plastic bags containing waste into a storm drain.**

