

PROTECT OUR WATERS

Pet waste may not be the first pollutant that springs to mind when you think of protecting Narragansett Bay and the water surrounding Jamestown but it certainly plays a role! Leaving pet waste on your lawn, dumping it in the storm sewer, or leaving it on the sidewalk or street are all ways that you may be polluting our water resources and causing a hazard to your own health without even realizing it.

Pet waste doesn't just decompose, it adds harmful bacteria and nutrients to local water. By cleaning up after your pet, you will be doing your part to protect yourself and the environment.



THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THE POOP FAIRY



ONLY YOU CAN MAKE YOUR PET WASTE DISAPPEAR!

TOWN OF JAMESTOWN PET WASTE
EDUCATION PROGRAM



This project was funded by an agreement (CE00A0004) awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.



**Only YOU Can Prevent
POO-llution**



**BE THE SOLUTION TO STORM WATER
POLLUTION!**

**DISPOSING OF YOUR PET'S WASTE CAN
MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO OUR
WATERWAYS**

SCOOP IT!

BAG IT!

TRASH IT!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

When you fail to clean up after your pet, the poop left on sidewalks, streets and lawns is both unpleasant and a nuisance. But it can become an even bigger problem when it rains and is carried by stormwater into nearby ponds, marshes and waterways to Narragansett Bay. It can create a health hazard for people and can “doo” a lot of damage to the environment.

- According to the EPA, dogs can serve as hosts for up to 65 diseases that can be transmitted to humans. If left on the ground, these parasites, bacteria and viruses can contaminate the water, soil, and infect both pets and humans.
- Water that contains high levels of bacteria and other pathogens from animal waste are unfit for human contact.
- As pet waste decays, it uses up oxygen that fish and aquatic life need.
- Locally, Sheffield Cove has been closed to shellfishing since 2009 because of increased bacterial counts. Water quality sampling has shown that the bacteria can be traced back to animal waste.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the EPA, a typical dog (around 40 pounds) excretes 274 pounds of waste per year.



BE THE SOLUTION!

Picking up after your pet is part of being a responsible owner. It avoids unpleasant surprises for those that follow and prevents your pet's waste from causing water pollution and health hazards. And it's the law!

Doing the right thing is easy! Pick up after your pet every time you take them out.

ONLY YOU CAN
PREVENT POO-LLUTION!

HANDY TIPS

- Put bags in the car or tie them to the leash so you'll be prepared when you travel with your pet.
- Place bags by the door so you don't forget them.
- Carry disposable bags and pick up after your pet when out on walks.
- Properly dispose of pet waste by bagging the waste and depositing it in a trash can.
- Talk to your family and friends about stormwater pollution and picking up after their pets!
- Please do not throw bagged pet waste in storm drains or leave it on the ground or toss it in the woods.
- Reuse bags that would have ended up in the trash to pick up after your pet. Ask your neighbors, coworkers and friends to collect bread or newspaper bags.

