



**Dog Poop.  
It's a serious problem.  
Here's Why....**

Because it contains disease-causing bacteria that can make people sick. Even worse is the knowledge that dog waste may be polluting our drinking water, local swimming areas, and favorite fishing spots. Listed below are a few tips on how dog owners can protect local water resources.

Pick up after your pooch. Remind your neighbors to pick up after theirs. Your dog can't help it. But you can. It's easy.

- ◆ Always pick up your pet's waste.
- ◆ Always bring a bag with you when you walk your dog.
- ◆ Pick up the pet waste, turn the bag inside out, seal it.
- ◆ Place the bag in the trash.

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**The Shocking Truth  
about your dog's poop.**



**Pet owners can make a  
difference in our community  
and keep local waters clean.**

*If you don't have a dog please  
share this with someone who does.*

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## Why All the Fuss?



## Poop happens—Right?

True, poop is not exactly an environmental threat on the order of carbon pollution, nuclear waste or a Superfund site. Still, the risk from poop can be more than just a mess on your shoes. Dog waste is an environmental pollutant. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) labeled it as a **pollutant**, placing it in the same category as oil, grease, herbicides, insecticides and other toxic chemicals.

## Far from Fertilizer

Woof-woof waste does not a good fertilizer make. It is actually toxic to your lawn, causing burns and unsightly discoloring. Beyond your grass, it has been estimated that a single ounce of dog waste can contain 652 million fecal coliform bacteria. EPA even estimates that two or three days' worth of droppings from an area with about 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay, and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it, to swimming and shellfishing.

## Stepping in dog waste can be a nasty experience.

Cleaning up after your dog can be a stinky job, but someone's gotta do it. Constant clean up is necessary for a healthy environment for you and your family.

## Pet waste pollutes local waters and can be a public health risk!

Dog feces are one of the most common carriers of the following diseases:

Whipworms  
Hookworms  
Roundworms  
Tapeworms  
Parvo  
Corona  
Giardiasis  
Salmonellosis  
Cryptosporidiosis  
Campylobacteriosis



This project is funded by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust

The special environmental license plates are the only specialty plates sold in Massachusetts that exclusively fund environmental programs. The plates are available from the MA Registry of Motor Vehicles.



## Scooping your pet's waste isn't just a courtesy for those walking behind you; it also keeps our river and beaches safe.

- ◆ Clean water is essential for drinking, navigation, and recreational activities such as swimming and boating.
- ◆ We all need to work together to keep our streams, river and beaches healthy.
- ◆ **Always** pick up your pet's waste—even in your own backyard—and throw the bagged waste in the trash.



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**Want to do more to help?** Join WRWA, a member supported, not-for-profit organization. WRWA members are heroes for our River and the backbone of everything that we do as an organization. Together, we can protect Westport's greatest natural resource. [www.westportwatershed.org](http://www.westportwatershed.org)