

## Benefits of Pet Waste Removal

- Very inexpensive way of helping the environment.
- Even individual efforts can make a big difference.
- Cleaner water supply for the Town of Bridgewater.
- Aesthetically pleasing to the environment.
- Helps to protect aquatic animals that could be harmed by the toxins in the water.
- Can prevent the spread of dangerous diseases to animals and humans.



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## Pick Up After Your Pet

**Pets and Our  
Water  
Quality?**

Town of Bridgewater, VA

Department of  
Stormwater Management



# Pets and Our Water Quality

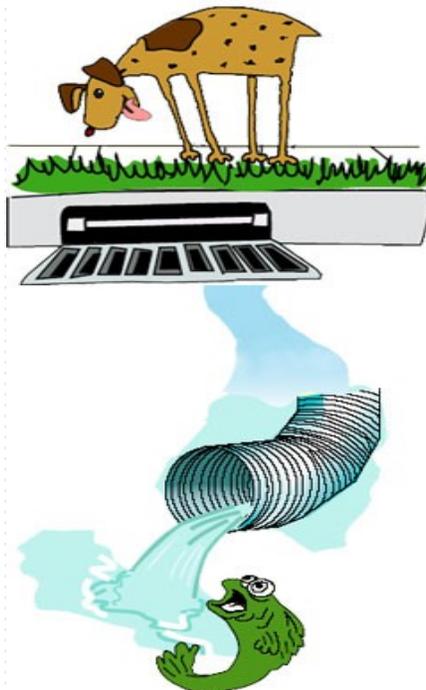
**Pet Waste Management** is a very important process to ensure a safe and clean water supply. When stormwater hits land, it creates runoff water that finds its way to the water supply. That water is not filtered or processed and goes directly into the nearest lake, pond, or river. When runoff goes over pet waste, it collects all the bacteria particles on the feces and goes into the water supply too! Cleaning up pet waste can greatly benefit the environment.

**Dogs** are a significant host of bacteria that is harmful to humans. One gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. Dog waste can spread many diseases that are harmful to humans.

**Parasites** from dog waste can be spread. Some of the possible ways a dog or cat can obtain various different parasites, viruses and stages of bacteria from their own poop include: rolling in their feces, pawing at it, and in rare instances even eating it.

## Health Hazards From Pet Waste

- **Campylobacteriosis**- a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.
- **Salmonellosis**- the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans from animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- **Toxocariasis**- roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include vision loss, rash, fever, or cough.



## When It Rains It Drains!



## Pet Waste Cleanup Protocol

- Clean up pet waste to prevent it from getting into the local water source.
- Double bag the waste in a disposable bag to ensure that the waste is properly disposed.
- Consider flushing the waste in the toilet so it can be processed at a water treatment plant.
- If you are burying the waste, make sure the hole is over 12 inches deep and 100 feet from any water or food source.
- Purchase a pet waste disposal system for your house which operates similar to an ordinary septic system.