

Clean Up Your Pet's Waste and Protect Our Water Supply

In accordance with the Town's Illicit Discharge Bylaw, no person shall dump pet waste or animal feces into any catch basin drain structure. Any person determined to be responsible for such action may be held responsible for cleaning the catch basin and any other portion of the stormwater system impacted or paying the cost for cleaning!

For more information visit:

www.wilmingtonma.gov/public-works/stormwater-management

www.wilmingtonma.gov/stormwater-management/illicit-discharge-detection-elimination



Proper Disposal of Dog Waste



What Can You Do?

- **Bring It!** Carry a scooper bag when you walk your dog.
- **Scoop It!** Use the baggie like a glove, scoop the poop, invert and seal the bag.
- **Toss It!** It belongs in the trash.
- **Place a Sign!** Put a "Scoop the Poop" sign in your yard to encourage your neighbors to scoop it up too!



Community Member of the
Northern Middlesex Stormwater
Collaborative

www.nmstormwater.org

Northern Middlesex
STORMWATER
COLLABORATIVE

Protect Our Water Supply and Your Health

Leave no pile behind!

Be sure to clean up after your pet





What's the Problem?



Pet waste is a major source of water contamination

and contains harmful bacteria and parasites. Dog feces can contain fecal coliform bacteria, which can spread diseases like Giardia, Salmonella, and Campylobacter, causing serious illness in humans.

Rain and water from melting snow flows across yards, dog parks, and other surfaces on its way to our water bodies, via our streets and storm drains.

Be a responsible pet owner and clean up your pet's waste every time. **Never dispose of pet waste in a catch basin, which flows directly into our waterways.** Tips for proper disposal of pet waste are detailed on the back of this brochure.



What about pet waste that is left on the ground?

- It's toxic to plants and can create dead spots on the lawn.
- It can contain e-coli, roundworm, giardia, and other germs that make people and pets sick.
- Some of these disease-causing organisms remain infectious in the soil for weeks or years.
- It washes from land and into our waterways and ground water, causing contamination.
- It causes harmful algae and aquatic weeds to grow and reduces oxygen in the water for fish and other wildlife.



But I'm a Cat Lover...

Proper disposal of cat waste is also important. Dangers may lurk inside your cat's litter box, making proper disposal a must for good health. Some cat feces may contain the bacteria *Toxoplasma gondii*, which has been linked to many health problems and is especially dangerous for pregnant women. Take the necessary steps to properly handle cat litter:

- Scoop your cat's waste into a receptacle lined with a bag.
- Tie off the bag and deposit it into an outside waste can.
- Wash your cat's scoop with soap and warm water. Use disposable paper towels to eliminate the possibility of transferring waste to a cleaning rag. Wear rubber gloves while performing this step.
- Clean your cat's litter pan monthly if you're using clumping litter, or weekly if you're using the non-clumping brands. Use soap, warm water, and paper towels. Dispose of the paper towels in a bag and tie it off.