



# Do You Scoop The Poop?

Pet waste doesn't just decompose. It adds harmful **bacteria and nutrients** to local waters, when it's not disposed of properly.

## It's Really a Problem?

It might not seem like a stormwater problem, but animal waste is one of the many seemingly small sources of pollution that can add up to a big problem for water quality and even human health.

Animal waste contains two main types of pollutants that harm local water; nutrients and pathogens. When this waste ends up in water bodies, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. This makes the water murky, green, smelly, and even unusable for swimming, boating, or fishing. The pathogens (disease causing bacteria and viruses) have caused severe illness in humans.



Central Park, Petersburg

Photo by Timmons Group.



Pocahontas State Park

Photo taken from Petersburg Area Regional Tourism.

## Be Prepared

- ✓ Picking up after your pet is easy, if you're prepared. Simply carry a plastic bag with you on every walk with your dog and you'll have the equipment to remove your dog's waste. Then throw it in the nearest trash can and you're done! There are many inexpensive products available in stores/online that provide convenient, small enough to fit in your hand or attach to a leash, pet waste bag dispensers.
- ✓ Many parks and recreational areas have courtesy bags and disposal boxes, designed specifically for dog waste. Pet waste stations can be found in Central Park, near City Hall, and at some multi-family residential complexes around the City.
- ✓ Avoid letting your dog do its business within 200 feet of a water body.
- ✓ And of course, never throw dog waste into a stormdrain!

## Pet Waste at Home

- For dogs, cats, and other pets that are meat eaters, it's important to **dispose of the waste in the garbage**. Wastes from meat eaters should not be placed in a compost pile because the parasites, bacteria, and viruses are not readily destroyed during the composting process and can be passed on to humans.
- While it's common courtesy to **pick up after your dog when you go on walks**, it's also a good idea to pick up after him at home. Some diseases can be transmitted from pet waste to humans through contact with the soil. Children playing outside and adults who garden are most at risk.
- If you have large animals, **barnyard and manure management is critical** to the protection of water resources. Please visit: [www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/tags.resource.html/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu:natural-resources-environmental-quality](http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/tags.resource.html/pubs_ext_vt_edu:natural-resources-environmental-quality) for information specific to livestock.

## Don't Feed the Fowl

Unfortunately, an activity many of us enjoyed as children has damaging impacts, not only got the waterfowl themselves, but also for local waters. While ducks, geese, and swans love to eat the bread we offer them, **it lacks the nutrition of their natural diet** and can cause long-term health problems.

Feeding waterfowl also causes them to concentrate in higher number than they would if they had to rely solely on natural food supplies, and that results in **large quantities of waste for local waters!**



Photo taken from City of Petersburg Animal Control Facebook page.

## For More Information

Visit the City of Petersburg Website:

Stormwater Management

[www.petersburg-va.org/295/Stormwater-Management](http://www.petersburg-va.org/295/Stormwater-Management)

Animal Control

[www.petersburgva.gov/824/Clean-Up-After-Your-Pets](http://www.petersburgva.gov/824/Clean-Up-After-Your-Pets)

Or Call the City's Stormwater Manager:  
804-733-2357



Photo published in article by Amy Woodyatt, CNN (October 18, 2019), "Is Feeding Bread to Ducks Still a No-No?".