

What's the problem with pet waste?

When pet waste is not disposed of properly, water quality isn't the only thing that suffers- your health may be at risk, too.

Pets, children playing outside, and adults gardening are most at risk for infection from bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste include the following:

- Salmonellosis: the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.
- Toxocariasis: roundworms usually transmitted from dogs to humans, often without noticeable symptoms, but may cause vision loss, rash, fever, or cough.
- Toxoplasmosis: a parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects if a woman is infected during pregnancy.

When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays, uses up oxygen and sometimes releases ammonia. This can kill fish!

Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Overly fertile water becomes cloudy and green.

Imagine this in your backyard pond or stream!

Managing pet waste properly is something easy that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our surface waters.



Dog owners/walkers in our town can easily and economically manage pet waste and help keep our waters safe and aesthetically pleasing.

HUDSON PUBLIC WORKS Stormwater



978-562-9333



1 Municipal Drive, Hudson, MA 01749



www.townofhudson.org/department-public-works



DOG WASTE AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY

There are over 2,600 licensed dogs in the Town of Hudson.



Each of these dogs produces about 3/4 lb. of solid waste and billions of bacteria per day!

Did you know?

Storm drains are different from sewer.

Storm drains and sewer drains are separate infrastructure underground. Rainfall and snow-melt in Hudson flows untreated directly into streams, rivers, and lakes through the catch basins, swales and other methods. Along its way, stormwater picks up contaminants. This is why it's important to make sure pet waste and its pollutants do not end up in storm drains.

Dogs are currently allowed in many of our watershed trails, but please follow the posted rules and pick up after your pet.

Watersheds feeding to the drinking water reservoirs like the Gates Pond are special. This reservoir is a drinking water source for Hudson residents. Assabet River is also a source of drinking water for other communities.



If wild animals are pooping in our woods and trails, why should residents bother picking up after their pets?

Wild animals on watershed property consume natural sources from the ecosystem and return nature to nature in their waste.

Pets are fed processed foods or people food which results in an excess of nutrients in their waste. Those nutrients and pathogens can negatively affect the ecosystem and lead to issues with water quality.



Pets have different bacteria in their digestive systems than that found in wildlife. These bacteria help our pets break down processed and non-natural foods and can be harmful to humans and wildlife.

During rainstorms, the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste can easily wash in to the public water supplies, compromising the water quality.

Bacteria and other parasites, such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, found in pet waste can survive for long periods when left on the ground. During a rain storm, these pollutants can be washed into the drinking water supply, compromising water quality that is regulated by state and federal laws.



How you can help



BRING IT, BAG IT

Bring a plastic bag when walking your pet. Use the bag as a glove to pick up the pet waste.



DISPOSE IT

Properly dispose of the waste by placing it in a trash can or flushing it, unbagged, down the toilet. NEVER THROW WASTE DOWN A STORM DRAIN!



Pick up after your pet in your yard. Only bring your dog where dogs are allowed.



KNOW YOUR LOCAL LAWS

Article VI, Section 7F of the Town of Hudson General Bylaws states:

"No person owning or having the care, custody or control of any dog shall permit such dog to soil or defile or commit any nuisance upon any sidewalk, gutter, thoroughfare, beach or wetland, public park, school property, conservation lands, or other public property...Penalty for violation of this subsection shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per offense."