

WHAT'S WRONG WITH DOG POOP?

As warm weather is finally upon us, we are starting to venture out more with our furry friends. But with that activity, comes an increase in the potential for a dangerous situation. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average dog produces approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of waste per day. Too much of this waste washes into (or is placed directly into) our storm drains that flow directly to nearby creeks, fish and wildlife habitats, downstream areas, and into our drinking water supplies. Hanover Borough, through the Department of Planning & Engineering, is working to change this.

If you own a dog, please help us keep our waters clean by spreading the word—Scoop the Poop!

Scooping the poop is not just about the mess – it's about clean water and the health of our community.

- Dog waste is unhealthy for people, other dogs and the environment. It is raw sewage with twice as much bacteria as human waste—a breeding ground for infection.
- A 40-pound dog produces 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria per day.
- Pet waste left on the side of the road, placed in drainage inlets, or in the woods releases bacteria that can end up in our water supply where humans and other animals can be exposed.
- Giardia, Salmonella, and Campylobacter are just some of the diseases that can be transferred to humans from pet waste.
- The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also confirmed that pet waste can spread parasites including salmonella, tapeworms, roundworms and hookworms.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to these bacteria, since they often play in the dirt and put things in their mouths.

HOW CAN I HELP?

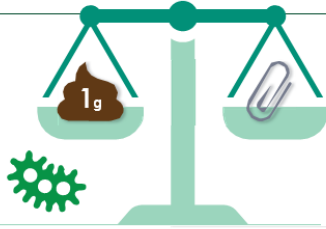
Join other responsible dog owners and Scoop the Poop—whenever and wherever—even in your own yard, in the woods and along our streets, even in the snow and even if you have a small dog.

- Always bring dog-waste bags and put filled bags in a trash can.
- Never put dog waste in a recycling bin.
- Never use dog poop as a “natural” fertilizer in your yard or garden—it can be toxic to your soil and your family.
- Never leave dog-waste bags on the roadside or dump them in storm drains—**these are not connected** to wastewater treatment facilities and do not get treated!

Why Scoop That Poop?



Pet waste that is not cleaned up will find its way into our storm sewers, which lead to our local streams and water reservoirs. These are public facilities that we use for both recreation and for our community drinking water.



There are **23 million** fecal bacteria in 1 gram of pet waste which is equivalent to the weight of a paper clip.



Common myth — dog waste is as effective of a fertilizer as cow or horse manure, when it is **actually more toxic**. Due to their high-protein diet, dog waste is highly acidic and can burn your grass creating brown patches.



Two or three days' worth of droppings from 100 dogs contributes enough bacteria to close a bay and its watershed areas within 20 miles to swimming and fishing.



When walking your pet, always carry disposable bags with you and deposit the pet waste in a trash can or at a pet waste station.



Source: This document was prepared using published materials and data as provided by the PennState Extension Office and the Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources.



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