

Tips

Picking up pet waste is no one's favorite job.

Hopefully the tips below will make the job a little less icky.

- You can turn pet waste collection baggies inside out over your hand to use the bag as a glove when picking up the waste.
- Many pet owners prefer to double bag the collected pet waste.
- After collection, you can tie the baggies onto the leash so that you do not have to hold or put the full baggie in your pocket.
- Long handled pet waste scoopers are available at pet stores to assist with waste collection.
- Although you can purchase baggies specifically for pet waste at pet stores, you can also re-use other bags including newspaper bags, bread bags, or sandwich baggies.
- Pet waste digesters are available for purchase at pet stores.



Additional Information

For more information, contact a **Joint Base Langley Eustis Water Media Manager** at **757-878-5218 (Fort Eustis)** or **757-764-1141 (Langley AFB)**.

Additional information is available at:

EPA Pet Waste Management:

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/Pet%20Care%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

City of Hampton

<http://www.hampton.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9075>

Hampton Roads

www.hrpdcva.gov/departments/water-resources/stormwater-management

<http://askhrgreen.org/scoop-the-poop/>

Water Environment Federation

www.wef.org/AWK/pages_cs.aspx?id=6392

www.wef.org/blogs/blog.aspx?id=8780&blogid=17296

Pet waste is a health risk to people, other pets, and the environment. Bacteria in pet waste can make people sick. When not disposed of properly, pet waste is washed into storm drains and ends up in local waterways.

Always bag pet waste and dispose of it properly.



Preventing Pollution from Pet Waste



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The Problem

Pet waste is not only smelly and unsightly, but also is a health risk to pets, people, and our local water bodies.

You may think that pet waste left on a lawn or sidewalk fertilizes the soil. However, in most cases the waste is washed into storm drains that lead directly into nearby waterways without being treated first.

The problem is that pet waste contains harmful bacteria such as E. coli and fecal coliform, making the water unfit for irrigation, recreation (such as swimming, fishing, or tubing), and other uses.

Pet waste contains parasites and bacteria that can spread gastrointestinal illnesses in humans such as Giardia and Salmonella.

These pollutants are harmful to the thousands of species of plants and animals (including fish, crabs and shellfish, birds, grasses, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians). People who eat food from contaminated water can get very sick.

Furthermore, pet waste also contains nutrients that can cause excessive algae growth in water, leading to fish kills and disrupting the water's natural ecology.

The Facts

Pet waste contains contaminants that are harmful to people, pets, wildlife, and the environment.

Some of the harmful effects of pet waste include:

- When pet waste decays, it uses up dissolved oxygen and releases compounds that are harmful to fish and other aquatic life.
- On average nationally, there are 0.58 dogs per household.
- Each dog produces approximately 0.42 pounds of fecal waste per day, or about 150 pounds per year. Just think how much waste is produced by the pets in your neighborhood!
- A single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria that can cause disease in humans.
- A single day's waste from one large dog can contain 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria—enough to close 15 acres of shellfish beds.
- EPA estimates that 2 to 3 days of pet waste from a population of 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria and nutrients to temporarily close an entire bay for swimming and shellfishing..

Source: EPA 1993



The Solution

Be responsible and clean up after your pets. It is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Bring a bag.



2. Use a bag to pick up pet the waste.



3. Dispose of the bag properly in the trash...

