



### What can you do?

Here is how you can properly dispose of your pet's waste and prevent local water pollution and disease.

- Take a plastic bag or pooper scooper or paper cup along when walking your pet. Dispose of the waste properly in the household trash after securely wrapping it. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste and cat litter.
- Flush it down the toilet if your sewage goes to a treatment plant.
- Use a pet waste station provided by the City of Albany.
- Hire a pooper-scooper company to manage the dog waste on your lawn.
- Do NOT bury it or put in a compost pile. The pile will NOT kill disease organisms in the waste.



**You Can Make A Difference!!**  
 Report illegal or illicit discharges to  
 Stormwater Program Manager  
 518-434-5300  
[stormwater@albanyny.gov](mailto:stormwater@albanyny.gov)  
 And  
 Animal Control  
 518-462-7107  
[animalcontrol@albany-ny.org](mailto:animalcontrol@albany-ny.org)



**Where Can I Get More Information?**  
 City of Albany Department of Water & Water Supply  
[www.albanyny.org/stormwater.aspx](http://www.albanyny.org/stormwater.aspx)

Stormwater Coalition of Albany  
 County <http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/>

Albany County Soil and Water Conservation  
 District  
<http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/SoilandWaterConservationDistrict/stormwatermanagement.aspx>

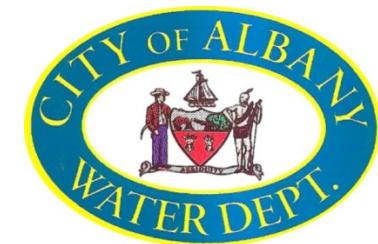
*IF You Think Picking up Dog Poop Is Unpleasant,  
 Try Drinking It or Swimming in It*



# Pet Waste And Stormwater Pollution



## It's A Real Problem



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### What's the problem with pet waste?

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 big problems for water quality and even human health.

Bagged up and unbagged pet waste thrown in storm sewer grates, openings, drains, or manholes is an example of an illicit discharge which is a major cause of water pollution.

Federal, New York State and the City of Albany prohibit illegal or illicit discharges to storm sewer systems and are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.



### How does pet waste affect the environment?

- Pet waste when improperly disposed of washes into lakes or streams, the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels

and ammonia combined with warm temperatures kill fish.

- Pet wastes contain nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Overly fertile water becomes cloudy, green and unusable for swimming, boating, or fishing.
- Pet waste is a threat to human and environmental health because it contains harmful bacterial and pathogens, some of which can cause serious diseases in humans.
- Pet waste can carry diseases which could make water unsafe for contact.



### Facts about pet waste:

1. Dog feces are one of the most common carriers of the following diseases:
 

Whipworms	Parvo
Hookworms	Corona
Tapeworms	Giardiasis
Salmonellosis	Cryptosporidium
2. A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans.

3. EPA estimates that 2 or 3 days' worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay, and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it, to swimming and shell fishing.
4. There are an estimated 74.8 million dogs owned in the United States, which create 72.5 billion pounds of dog waste every year!
5. Studies have found that roughly 40% of Americans don't pick up their dogs' feces (women are more likely to do so than men).



### What is the Impact?

- Affects the quality of water we drink and the water we play in at the beach.
- Diseases can spread to people directly and indirectly as contaminated water enters the food chain.
- There is a cost to local governments and to us, the taxpayers, when systems must be cleaned and repaired and health issues must be treated.

