

## Simple Ways to Love Your Pet and the Environment!

### Always clean up after your pet!

Failure to do so on public property is subject to a \$250 fine (County Code §5-36) and a Class 4 misdemeanor charge.

### Proper ways of disposing pet waste include:

- bagging and placing pet waste in the trash or
- flushing pet waste down the toilet.



**Never dispose of pet waste in a storm drain.** These drains lead directly to local waterways.

**Encourage other pet owners to be responsible.** It is an important part of the responsibility of owning a pet. We all suffer the consequences of ignoring irresponsible pet owners.

## 5 Things you can do to reduce pet waste pollution

1. Always clean up after your pet.
2. Never dispose of pet waste in a storm drain.
3. Bag dog waste and place it in the trash.
4. Flush pet waste down the toilet.
5. Encourage other pet owners to be responsible.



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## Clean Up After Your Pet!



**Protect your family,  
your community, and  
your dog!**



# Stafford County, Virginia

## Pet Waste Disposal, Water Quality and Your Health

### Are you risking your health?

When pet waste is left on the ground or disposed of improperly, **water quality suffers and you and your pets' health may be at risk too.**

Children who play outside are at the highest risk of infection from bacteria and parasites found in pet waste. Flies may also spread diseases found in pet waste. Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans include:



E. coli is only one bacteria found in pet waste.

#### **Campylobacteriosis:**

A bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.

**Salmonellosis:** The most common bacteria infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Dog waste also contains e.coli bacteria, roundworm, tuberculosis, gastroenteritis, giardiasis, and cryptosporidiosis. **An infected puppy can pass over a million roundworm eggs per day!**

Simply picking up after your pet can significantly reduce these health risks to your pet *and* the entire community.

### Are you polluting our water?

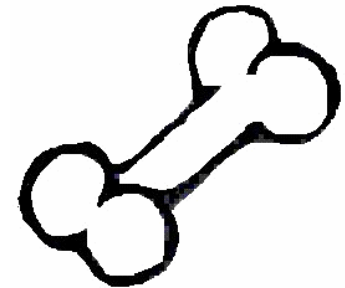
Did you know that some of Stafford County's **streams exceed Virginia's standards for fecal coliform bacteria?** Fecal coliform bacteria is present in the intestinal tracts of all warmblooded animals and is an indicator that a potential health risk exists for individuals exposed to the water.

The nutrients and organic matter in pet waste can also cause significant water quality degradation. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms that block sunlight and kill underwater vegetation. Decaying pet waste uses up dissolved oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic species rely on to live.

By picking up after our pets, the citizens of Stafford County can make a real contribution to improving our local water quality and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.



Pet waste contributes to fecal bacteria and excess nutrient pollution in Stafford County. When pet waste is not properly disposed of, it can wash into nearby streams or be carried by runoff into storm drains. These storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities. Instead, they drain directly into our streams and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.



### Pets also benefit!

In addition to protecting the environment and water resources, proper disposal of pet waste protects the health of your pet.

Dogs are also more comfortable being walked in clean areas with healthy streams and lakes.