

Pet Waste Around Town

If you live in an area with a Homeowner's Association (HOA), check with your HOA regarding accommodations for the safe disposal of pet waste. Many public parks, including those in the Town of Leesburg, require proper removal and disposal of pet waste, and often provide bags and refuse containers for this purpose. Let's work together to keep our water sources clean and safe!



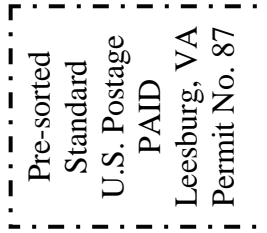
Town of Leesburg Code

Town code requires pet owners to immediately remove pet waste from public areas or risk a **\$100** fine!

For more information on volunteering and education outreach programs, please contact Nathaniel Ogedegbe, Stormwater Manager, at 703-771-2790 or e-mail nogedegbe@leesburgva.gov. You may also visit www.leesburgva.gov/publicworks/waterquality for more information on our programs.

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**The Town of Leesburg
Engineering & Public Works Department
P.O. Box 88
Leesburg, VA 20178**



**Postal Patron
Leesburg, VA**



**Doing Your Part to
Eliminate
Pet Waste Pollutants
in our
Waterways**



**Town of Leesburg
Stormwater Management &
Water Quality Program**

Why is Pet Waste in Stormwater Runoff a Problem?

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, pet waste in the stormwater system can be a major source of bacteria, excess nutrients and viruses in our rivers and streams. Stormwater runoff actually picks up pet waste and other pollutants in its path as it flows towards storm pipe systems or natural swales. This untreated stormwater then continues to flow to our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and coastal waterways we use for recreational activities, such as swimming and fishing. This same runoff eventually flows to the Potomac River, which, after treatment, is the source of drinking water for the Town of Leesburg.

How Does Pet Waste Effect Our Neighborhoods?

Pet waste left in our yards and communities can have many adverse effects on the environment, as it is full of harmful bacteria and excess nutrients. Besides the fact that pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance, it can make people sick, especially children who are more likely to come into contact with it while playing. Pet waste left on lawns can also kill or damage grass and other plants.



What Other Effects Can Pet Waste Have on the Environment?

The bacteria and excessive nutrients in pet waste can make their way into our local bodies of water, possibly ending up in shellfish or other fish, sickening those who consume them. People swimming in lakes and waterways contaminated with these pollutants may also become ill.

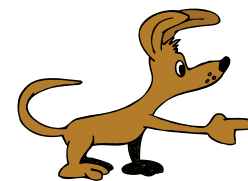
In addition, the excessive nutrients in pet waste can cause algae blooms. Algae blooms create excessive amounts of algae in ponds and lakes. When the algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process which removes oxygen from the water, essentially suffocating fish, aquatic plants, and other beneficial organisms.

GOAL

Reduction of
bacteria, viruses and
excessive nutrients
from pet waste in
our waterways.

What Can I do to Help?

- Purchase a “pooper scooper” and regularly remove pet waste from your yard.
- Use a plastic bag to pick up pet waste while walking your pet in the community.
- Dispose of pet waste properly by flushing it down the toilet or bagging it and placing with your regular household waste.
- Never dispose of pet waste into storm drains or waterways.
- Be on the lookout for polluters and report them.
- Get involved with your Homeowner’s Association—suggest posting signs and providing pet waste disposal bags around the community.



Did You Know?

In 2001, there were an estimated 6.5 million dogs in the United States. That’s 6.3 billion pounds of poop per year! It would take a scoop 300’ wide and 800’ deep to dispose of that much poop!***

***Source: U.S. Pet Ownership Demographics Source Book by the American Veterinary Medical Association.