



Interesting Fact!

Every dog produces about 3/4 lbs. of solid waste per day... and about 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria!

As of April 1, 2018, there are approximately 1,300 registered dogs in Plaistow. Do the math, that is a lot of dog waste and fecal coliform bacteria!

- Clean up after your pet every single time, on walks and in the yard.
- Dispose of the waste properly in the toilet, or bagged in the trash. **Never** place it in a storm drain!
- Town parks, trails and recreation areas offer complimentary waste bags and disposal receptacles for your convenience. Don't just leave bags on the ground.
- Carry extra bags when walking your dog and share them with other pet owners who are without.
- Keep extra bags in your car so you are prepared when you travel with your dog.
- Tell friends and neighbors about the harmful effects of animal waste on the environment. Encourage them to clean up after their pets also.



Pet Waste and Water Quality



You and your pet both love the outdoors, but did you know that failing to pick up your dog's waste can hurt the environment? Pet waste is full of bacteria, viruses and parasites. When pet waste is left on the lawn or the side of the street, all of the bacteria, viruses and parasites in that pet waste are picked up by rain water and washed down the storm drain into the nearest creek, river or pond. This is harmful for water quality and human health.



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Dog feces have a higher phosphorous concentration than found in cow and swine manure. Phosphorus is a nutrient that negatively impacts water quality and plant species. Nitrogen, found in dog urine, also causes contaminated runoff and leads to serious water quality issues.

Pet waste left on the ground eventually contaminates the watershed. Waste components like fecal bacteria and nutrients are washed into storm drains, streams, and other receiving waters by irrigation, rain, melting snow, and flooding. They can also simply leach through the soil and into the groundwater.

You Can Make A Difference!

Dog waste is cited as the 3rd or 4th largest contributor of bacterial pollution in urban watersheds.

The average dog produces approximately 3/4 pounds of poop every day. 1,000 dogs will produce 750 pounds of excrement a week. With approximately 1,300 dogs in the Town of Plaistow, that's a lot of poop! Do your part- pick up after your dog. It's the neighborly thing to do!

When pet waste is disposed of improperly, not only water quality suffers – your health may be at risk, too. Pets, children who play outside, and adults who garden are most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste. Flies may also spread diseases from animal waste.



Diseases or parasites that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans include:

- ◆ **Campylobacteriosis** – A bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.
- ◆ **Cryptosporidium** – A protozoan parasite carried by dogs, cats, mice, calves and many other mammals. Common symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration. May be fatal to people with depressed immune systems.
- ◆ **Toxocariasis** – Roundworms usually transmitted from dogs to humans, often without noticeable symptoms, but may cause vision loss, a rash, fever, or cough.
- ◆ **Toxoplasmosis** – A protozoan parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects such as mental retardation and blindness if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy; also a problem for people with depressed immune systems. Symptoms include headache, muscle aches, lymph node enlargement.