

If Your Dog Poops



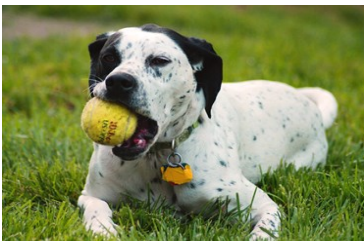
You must scoop...

Even If No One Sees You!!

Pet waste is a significant source of fecal bacteria in Prince William County. When pet waste is left on lawns or on neighborhood streets, it can wash into nearby streams or be carried by runoff into storm drains.

Storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities! Instead, they drain directly to our streams and eventually the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Pet owners must collect their animal's waste so it does not wash into local streams and storm drains!



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. **PICK UP** and bag waste and place it in the trash.
4. **FLUSH** pet waste down the toilet (but not kitty litter or debris).
5. **ENCOURAGE** other pet owners to be responsible.

**Only Rain Down the Drain
It's the Law!**



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

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**HELP MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD...
Pick Up After Your Pets!**



**PLEASE KEEP
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
SAFE & CLEAN!**

Prince William County
**Neighborhood
Services**



Working with you for a better community!

Prince William County Stormwater Management

Pet Waste, Water Quality, & Your Health

Pet Waste & Your Health

When not properly disposed of, pet waste can cause significant health risks to local water bodies.

Pet waste contains a complex flora of different pathogens (bacteria and virus), which when in contact can lead to negative health outcomes such as Gastroenteritis, a common digestive illness.

Exposure typically results from contact with streams contaminated with significant amounts of urban runoff containing pet waste.

Children who play outside are at the highest risk of infection from bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

Simply picking up after your pet can significantly reduce health risks and improve water quality.

- 🐾 Bag and place pet waste in the trash or flush it down the toilet.
- 🐾 Never dispose of pet waste in the storm drain.
- 🐾 Encourage other pet owners to be responsible.
- 🐾 Failure to properly dispose of pet waste is a Class 4 Misdemeanor and subject to a \$250 fine (County Code Section 4-11 and 4-26).

Pet Waste & the Environment

Many streams in Prince William County exceed Virginia's standards for fecal coliform bacteria. Pet waste, along with waste from wildlife, is a significant contributor to bacteria and excessive nutrients in streams.

Excess nutrients caused in part by pet waste can cause large algae blooms to occur in water bodies. These blooms block sunlight and consume crucial oxygen supplies which are needed to support healthy aquatic vegetation and animal ecosystems.

For more information check out these useful sites:

Prince William County Website

www.pwcgov.org/environment
Learn more about County Environmental programs

Prince William County Animal Shelter

www.petfinder.com/shelters/VA331.html
Find a pet looking for a forever home

PW Humane Society

www.pwhumane.org
Do you have a love for animals? Consider volunteering a few hours a week with the Humane Society

Northern Virginia Dog Parks

www.doggoes.com/parks/virginia
Find a local dog park near you!

NOVA Clean Water Partners

www.onlyrain.org
Tips on proper lawn care, automobile maintenance and pet waste disposal

