

Clean Up Your Pet's Waste Protect Our Public Waters, Drinking Water Supply and Your Health!

Town of Dracut, Massachusetts

Department of Public Works:
978-957-0411

Dracut Police Department:
978-957-2123

*Town of Dracut, MA Bylaws
Chapter 12: Dogs
Chapter 22: Illegal Dumping/
Littering*



Proper Disposal of Dog Waste



What Can You Do?

- **Bring It!** Carry a scooper bag when you walk your dog
- **Scoop It!** Use the baggie like a glove, scoop the poop, invert and seal the bag.
- **Toss It!** It belongs in the trash.
- **Place a Sign!** Put a "Scoop the Poop" sign in your yard to encourage your neighbors to scoop it up too!

Northern Middlesex
STORMWATER
COLLABORATIVE

www.nmstormwater.org

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The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is mandating that all municipalities work to clean up potential contaminants that lead into waters of the United States. Many of Dracut's streams- Beaver Brook, Richardson Brook, Pepper-mint Brook, Bartlett Brook, and Trout Brook, all are considered "impaired" due to the e-coli levels in the water. All streams lead to the Merrimack River. The Merrimack River is considered a wa- ter of the United States.

**Leave no pile behind!
Be sure to clean up after
your pet**





What's the Problem?



Pet waste is a major source of water contamination and contains harmful bacteria and parasites. Dog feces can contain fecal coliform bacteria, which can spread diseases like Giardia, Salmonella, and Campylobacter, causing serious illness in humans.

Rain and water from melting snow flows across yards, dog parks, and other surfaces on its way to our water bodies, via our streets and storm drains.

Be a responsible pet owner and clean up your pet's waste every time. Never dispose of dog waste in a catch basin, which flows directly into our waterways. Tips for proper disposal of dog waste are detailed on the back of this brochure.



What about pet waste that is left on the ground?

- It's toxic to plants and can create dead spots on the lawn.
- It can contain e-coli, roundworm, giardia, and other germs that make people and pets sick.
- Some of these disease-causing organisms remain infectious in the soil for weeks or years.
- It washes from land and into our waterways and ground water, causing contamination.
- It causes harmful algae and aquatic weeds to grow and reduces oxygen in the water for fish and other wildlife.



But I'm A Cat Lover...

Proper disposal of cat waste is also important. Dangers may lurk inside your cat's litter box, making proper disposal a must for good health. Some cat feces may contain the bacteria Toxoplasma gondii, which has been linked to many health problems and is especially dangerous for pregnant women. Take the necessary steps to properly handle cat litter:

- Scoop your cat's waste into a receptacle lined with a plastic bag.
- Tie off the plastic bag and deposit it into an outside waste can.
- Wash your cat's scoop with soap and warm water. Use disposable paper towels to eliminate the possibility of transferring waste to a cleaning rag. Wear rubber gloves while performing this step.
- Clean your cat's litter pan monthly if you're using clumping litter, or weekly if you're using the non-clumping brands. Use soap, warm water, and paper towels. Dispose of the paper towels in a plastic bag and tie it off.