



**Scooping your dog's waste isn't just a courtesy for those walking behind you; it also keeps our water resources clean.**

Clean water resources are essential for drinking, navigation, and recreational activities such as swimming and boating.

We all need to work together to keep our lakes and streams healthy.

Please remember to clean up after your pet.

**Pet waste pollutes local water resources and can be a significant public health risk!**



This brochure was created by the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board as part of the Central New York Stormwater Coalition's public stormwater education program. Additional information is available at [www.cnyrpd.org/stormwater](http://www.cnyrpd.org/stormwater).



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board  
126 North Salina St., 100 Clinton Square, Suite 200, Syracuse, NY 13202  
phone: (315) 422-8276 fax: (315) 422-9051 mail@cnyrpd.org www.cnyrpd.org

**Scoop the Poop!**

**Dog owners can make a positive change in our community by cleaning up after their pets. This will help to keep local water resources clean!**



**Why all the fuss?  
Because pet waste pollutes  
local water resources and  
can be a significant  
public health risk!**

When rain or snowmelt flows over land surfaces, it carries pet waste and other pollutants to storm drains and eventually flows into nearby lakes, streams, and wetlands. The polluted runoff contains harmful bacteria and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen and can make lakes and streams unsafe for drinking and recreational use. Microorganisms found in the dog waste can cause human diseases and health problems from roundworms, Giardia and Salmonella, viruses, and parasites. Nitrogen and phosphorus from the waste will also promote the growth of unwanted algae and rooted plants in lakes and streams.



**Stepping in dog waste can  
be a nasty experience.**

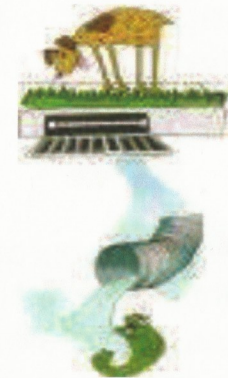
**Even worse is the  
knowledge that dog waste  
may be polluting our drink-  
ing water, local swimming  
areas, and favorite fishing  
spots.**

Dog owners are encouraged to clean up after their pets in order to protect water resources.

- Always bring a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog.
- Use the bag like a glove, pick up the pet waste, turn the bag inside out, and seal it.
- Place the bag in the trash or flush the un-bagged waste down the toilet. Homeowners with large yards can also bury the dog waste in a hole at least 5 inches deep and away from vegetable gardens and waterways.

**Never place the dog waste  
(bagged or un-bagged)  
in the storm drain!**

Storm drains lead directly to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. And remember — dog waste is only one of many pollutants that impact local waterways. Homeowners are also encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff that may contain garden fertilizers, motor oil, driveway sand and salt, and yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves.



**One day's waste from a  
large dog can contain  
7.8 billion fecal  
Coliform bacteria**

Pet waste pollutes our rivers, lakes, and streams. If you think picking up dog waste is unpleasant, try swimming in it!