

From: http://www.phillywatersheds.org/whats_in_it_for_you/residents/pet-waste

Pet Waste

How Does Pet Waste Affect Stormwater?

- **Isn't animal waste natural?** Yes, but it acts as a fertilizer in water, promoting excessive plant growth than can choke waterways, increase algal blooms and harm aquatic life.
- Animal waste also contains disease-causing bacteria that contaminate our waterways and, essentially, our drinking water sources.

Scooping Up the Poop

- Bag it! When going for dog walks, take a shopping bag or sandwich bag. When doggy makes a deposit, turn the baggie inside out over your hand and use it as a glove to pick up the waste.
- Flush the pet waste down the toilet so that it will reach sewage treatment plant.
- If flushing down the toilet is not a viable option, put the pet waste in the trash. **Never put pet waste into storm drains.**
- If you'd like to compost pet waste, dig a small trench in your yard, toss the waste in the trench and cover with a layer of leaves, grass clippings, and dirt.
- Encourage your neighbors to provide pet waste stations for collection and disposal of waste. Check to see if the parks in your neighborhood have them.
- Set up a "pooch patch" at your local park. A pooch patch is a pole surrounded by a light scattering of sand. Dog owners can introduce their dog to the pole upon entry to the park. Dogs will then return to the patch to defecate and then you can place the pet waste in special bins for disposal.



Philadelphia Spokesdog

Check out the competition to crown [Philly Water's Best Friend](#) in University City and Fittler Square. These pooches spread the word throughout their neighborhoods on watershed-friendly pet waste disposal

