

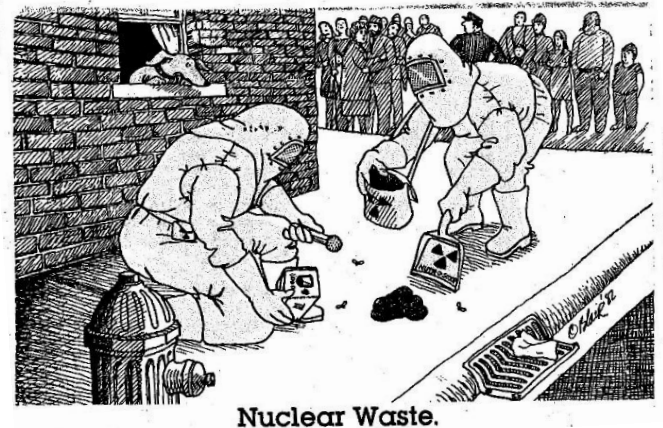
# Pet Waste and Water Quality:

## It's Not Just on the Lawn, It's in Your Water

Water quality is an important concern throughout the state. However, dog poop has a very real and negative effect on water quality. Compared to other non-point water pollution sources, dog poop is a relatively straight-forward problem to fix: **Scoop the Poop!**

## The Scoop on Poop

So what's the big deal? It's not like it's nuclear waste? Dog poop is a natural fertilizer, right? **Wrong.** The truth about dog poop is that it's the equivalent of putting raw sewage on the sidewalk. It may not be nuclear waste but when pet owners choose not to clean up after their dog, the health of our community, environment, and particularly our children are put at risk.



## Fecal Facts & Figures

- Due to its high nutrient concentration, dog poop is toxic to your lawn and favorite trails. Poop left on the ground causes burns and discoloration to grass and other vegetation.
- An average size dog dropping contains 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria.
- In addition to fecal coliform, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) confirms that dog poop can spread parasites including hookworms, ringworms, tapeworms, and Salmonella.
- Every time it rains in Londonderry, un-scooped poop is washed into storm-drains that flow directly into streams and ponds such as Cohas Brook, Scobie Pond, and Kendall Pond.
- Although poop may eventually "wash-away," it does not disappear. The parasite eggs contained in dog poop can linger in the grass and soil for up to 4 years! When a human or animal comes into contact with that soil through everyday activities like walking barefoot, gardening, or playing, they risk infection from those eggs.

## What You Can Do

Be a part of the dog pollution solution by following the steps on the other side:

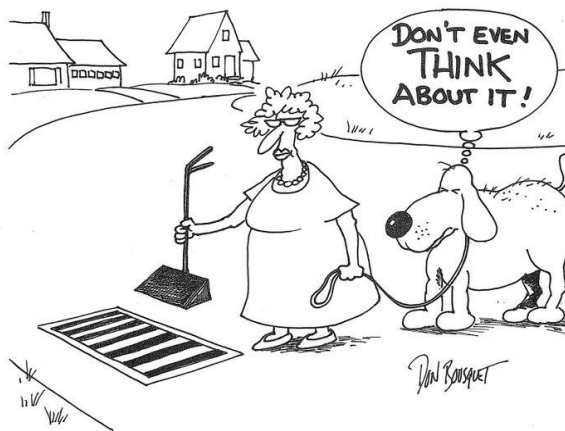


**Step 1:** Always carry a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog. Re-using an old plastic grocery or newspaper delivery bag works well.

**Step2:** Using the bag like a glove, you can then pick up the pet waste, turn the bag inside-out around the waste, and seal the bag by tying a knot.

**Step 3:** Dispose of the bagged waste in a trash can.

By following these 3 easy steps, you can help Londonderry keep its streets, streams, and shoes clean!



### **Other neighborhood water pollutants**

Dog waste is only one of many pollutants from our neighborhoods that add to water pollution. Lawn fertilizers, motor oil, driveway sand and salt, and soapy water from washing cars in driveways commonly end up in streams and lakes. Tell friends and neighbors about the effect of animal waste on the environment and our health. Encourage them to clean up after their pets and to dispose of the pet waste properly.