

What's the Problem with Pet Waste?

Pet waste left in our yards, forest areas and parks can have many adverse effects on the environment and human health.

It's full of harmful bacteria and excess nutrients.

Besides being a neighborhood nuisance, dog waste can make people sick, especially children who are more likely to come into contact with it while playing.

Pet waste left on lawns can damage grass and other plants.

When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays, uses up oxygen in the water, and releases ammonia. This can kill fish!

Pet waste contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth, turning the water cloudy and green . . . imagine this in your backyard pond or stream!

Pet waste is a harmful pollutant that degrades water quality and is unhealthy for fish, wildlife and humans.

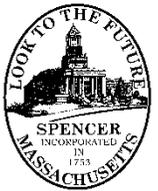


Managing pet waste properly is something easy that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our surface waters.

Properly dispose of pet waste by putting it in a trash can. **Never throw pet waste down a storm drain.**



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Town of Spencer



**PET
WASTE
AND
SURFACE
WATER
QUALITY**

Did You Know?

There are over 2,000 licensed dogs in our town.

Each of these dogs produces about $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of solid waste and over 7 billion bacteria daily!



As it flows, stormwater picks up contaminants and pollutants in its path.

It is very important to make sure that pet waste and its pollutants do not end up in the storm drains.

Rainfall and snowmelt in our stormwater system goes directly into local streams, ponds, rivers and lakes.

By responsibly handling pet waste — pet owners can help keep our waters safe.

What's So Bad About Pet Waste?

Bacteria and other parasites found in pet waste, such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, can survive for long periods when left on the ground.

During a rain storm, these pollutants can be washed into local rivers and ponds and into local drinking water supplies.

Unlike some forms of stormwater pollutants, individual people can help keep our waters safe by properly disposing of pet waste.

Individual actions can result in significant water quality improvements when carried out by many people.



Town of Spencer Dog Licenses: All dogs aged 6 months and older are required to be licensed. Licenses are obtained from the Town Clerk. Fee is \$10 for spayed/neutered dogs \$15 for intact dogs. Proof of current rabies vaccine and spaying/neutering must be provided.

How You Can Help



BRING IT – Always bring a plastic bag when you walk your dog.

BAG IT – Use the bag as a glove to pick up the pet waste. Scoop it up and turn the bag inside out around the waste.

DISPOSE IT – Properly dispose of pet waste by putting it in a trash can. **Never throw pet waste down a storm drain.**

AND REMEMBER

- Pick up after your pet in your yard
- Only bring your dog where dogs are allowed