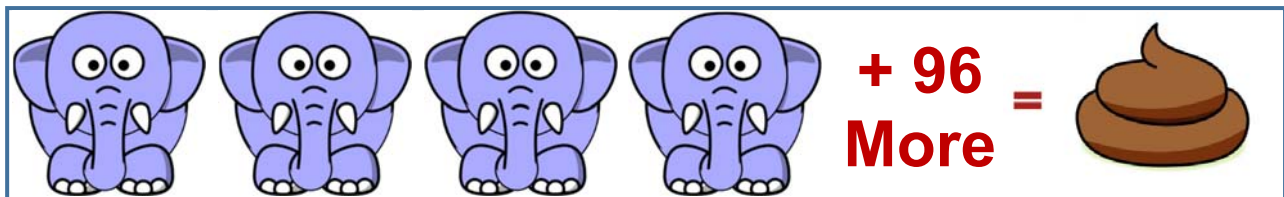


Did you know?

- There are over **4200** dogs in Chelmsford
- Each dog contributes on average **$\frac{3}{4}$ pound** of poop daily



That equals over **3,150 pounds of poop PER DAY**, or the weight of a car!



In a year, that equals **575 tons of poop**,
or the weight of **100 elephants!**

Help us protect our health, our pets, and our drinking water.
Do your “doody” - **SCOOP THE POOP!**

When pet waste washes into storm drains, it flows untreated into nearby rivers and streams, fish and wildlife habitats, recreational areas, and drinking water supplies. If you own a dog, please do your doody to help us keep our waters clean: Scoop the Poop!

Scooping the poop is not just about the mess – it’s about clean water and the health of our community. Dog waste has much, much more harmful bacteria than other wildlife like geese, and twice as much bacteria compared to human waste. The average dog produces 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria each time they poop. This bacteria can lead to *Giardia*, *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Campylobacter*, and children are most at risk.



Animal waste contains two main types of pollutants that harm local waters: nutrients and pathogens. When this waste ends up in water bodies, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. This makes the water murky, green, smelly, and even unusable for swimming, boating, and/or fishing. The pathogens, disease-causing bacteria and viruses, can also make local waters unswimmable and unfishable, and have caused severe illness in humans.

You can help keep our waters clean:

- Always bring dog-waste bags and dispose of waste in a trash can.
 - **Never** put it in a recycling bin or toss down a storm drain.
- **Never** use dog poop as a “natural” fertilizer in your yard or garden – it can be toxic to your family.
- **Never** leave dog-waste bags on the roadside or dump them into catch basins.

This document is based on one created by the North and South Rivers Watershed Association and their stormwater education program, WaterSmart. See <https://www.nsrwa.org/get-watersmart/pet-waste-education/>.



Northern Middlesex
**STORMWATER
COLLABORATIVE**

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. Do NOT dump into storm drains. Do NOT put into recycling bins.

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*, *Salmonella*, and other pathogens 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 groundwater, 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 too, making proper disposal essential 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 trash 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.



Dispose of Pet Waste Properly – It's the Law!

Please take action if you see any violations and report them directly to the DPW: (978) 250-5228 ext. 5235 or Stormwater@TownofChelmsford.us

It is illegal to dump any pollutant or non-stormwater discharge into public drains

(Chelmsford Bylaw §142-6.B)

- First violation - \$100/written warning
- Second violation - \$200
- Third and subsequent violations - \$300

It is illegal to not pick-up after your dog

(Chelmsford Bylaw §11-7-3)

Failure to remove pet waste:

- First offense in a calendar year - \$50
- Second offense in a calendar year - \$75
- Third offense in a calendar year - \$125



If you have questions or concerns, please email Stormwater@TownofChelmsford.us or call (978) 250-5228 ext. 5235
Follow us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/ChelmsfordDPW](https://www.facebook.com/ChelmsfordDPW)

