

Pet waste is a significant source of fecal bacteria in Stafford County. When pet waste is left on lawns or on streets, it can wash into nearby streams or be carried by runoff into storm drains.

Storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities! Instead, they drain directly to our streams and eventually the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.



Pet owners must collect their animal's waste so it does not wash into streams or drains.

5 Things you can do to reduce pet waste pollution

1. Always clean up after your pet.
2. Never dispose of pet waste in a storm drain.
3. Pick up and bag waste, place it in the trash.
4. Flush pet waste down the toilet (but not kitty litter or debris).
5. Encourage other pet owners to be responsible.

**Only Rain Down the Drain
It's The Law!**



Stafford County Department of Public Works
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*When Nature Calls,
Please Pick Up
After Your Pet*



**KEEP STAFFORD COUNTY
SAFE AND CLEAN!**

Pet Waste, Water Quality, and Your Health

Are you risking your health?

When pet waste is left on the ground or disposed of improperly, water quality suffers and your health may be at risk too.

Dog waste contains campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, e.coli bacteria, roundworm, tuberculosis, gastroenteritis, giardiasis, and cryptosporidiosis.

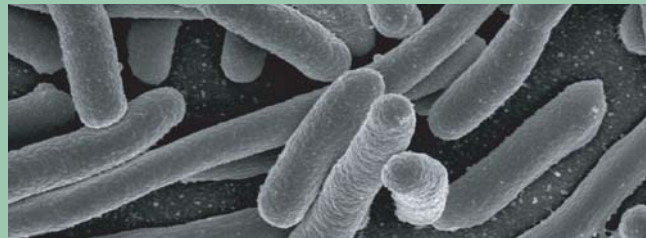
Children who play outside are at the highest risk of infection from bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

E. coli is only one bacteria found in pet waste.

Are you polluting our water?

Did you know that many of Stafford County's streams exceed Virginia's standards for fecal coliform bacteria? Pet waste is a significant source of fecal bacteria.

The organic matter in pet waste can also cause algae blooms that block sunlight and kill underwater vegetation. Decaying pet waste uses up dissolved oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic species rely on to live.



Simply picking up after your pet can significantly reduce health risks and improve water quality.

- 🐾 Bag and place pet waste in the trash or flush it down the toilet.
- 🐾 Never dispose of pet waste in a storm drain.
- 🐾 Encourage other pet owners to be responsible.
- 🐾 Failure to properly dispose of pet waste is a Class 4 misdemeanor and subject to a \$250 fine (County Code §5-36).

Visit these great sites for more information:

Stafford County Website

www.stafford.va.us

Learn More About County Environmental Programs

Northern Virginia Dog Blog

www.northern-virginia-dog-blog.com

Your Source for Canine Information and Fun!

NOVA Clean Water Partners

www.onlyrain.org

Tips on Proper Lawn Care, Auto Maintenance and Pet Waste Disposal

