

## What's the Problem with Pet Waste?

Pet waste left in our yards and communities can have many adverse effects on the environment, as it is full of harmful bacteria and excess nutrients. Besides the fact pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance, it can make people sick, especially children who are more likely to come into contact with it while playing. Pet waste left on lawns can also kill or damage grass and other plants.



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

Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Overly fertile water becomes cloudy and green...imagine this in your backyard pond or stream!

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

### Dog waste pollutes



Stormwater carries bacteria from dog waste into streams and rivers through storm drains.

**Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash**

Clean yards. Clean streams. (And clean leets!)

**101 REASONS TO PICK UP PET WASTE:  
NUMBER 16**

From: Snohomish County Washington Public Works: Surface Water Management Division

**Individual actions can result in significant water quality improvements when carried out by a majority of people. Unlike some forms of stormwater pollutants, individuals in our watershed can easily and economically manage pet waste and help to keep your waters safe and aesthetically pleasing.**

### WACHUSETT RESERVOIR WATERSHED

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## DOG WASTE AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 5,500 licensed dogs in the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed.



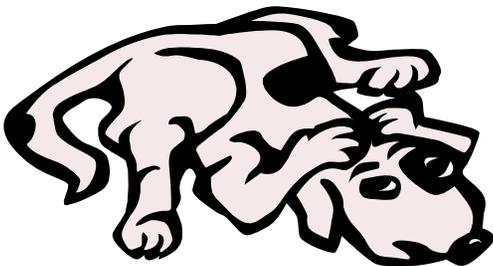
Each of these dogs produces about  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb of solid waste and 7.8 billion bacteria per day!



## WHY AREN'T DOGS ALLOWED ON DCR WATERSHED LANDS?\*

DCR's Watershed lands protect the Wachusett Reservoir, the sensitive, unfiltered drinking water supply for 2.2 million Massachusetts residents. Waste from dogs can enter directly into the reservoir or into the tributaries that then flow into the reservoir.

**Rainfall and snowmelt in the Wachusett Reservoir watershed goes untreated directly into streams, rivers and lakes. Along its way, stormwater picks up contaminants in its path. That's why it is important to make sure that pet waste and its pollutants do not end up in storm drains.**



Bacteria and other parasites, such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, found in pet waste can survive for long periods when left on the ground. During a rain storm, these pollutants can be washed into the drinking water supply, compromising water quality that is regulated by state and federal laws.

**\*Dogs are ALLOWED ONLY on the portion of the Oakdale Rail Trail not owned by DCR (Thomas Street to the I-190 overpass). Please pick up after your pet.**

## 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 up the waste and turn the bag inside out around the waste.
- **DISPOSE IT** - Properly dispose the waste by placing it in a trash can or flushing it unbagged down the toilet. Don't forget to wash your hands. **NEVER THROW WASTE DOWN A STORM DRAIN!**
- Pick up after your pet in your yard.
- Only bring your dog where dogs are allowed.