

# Clean water begins with you. Let's Think Blue.



When pet waste is left on the ground, rain and melting snow wash it away into storm drains that empty directly into streams, ponds, and lakes. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria that can contaminate local waterbodies, making them unsafe for swimming, boating, or other recreational activities.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**A single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform, some of which can cause diseases in humans. By picking up after your pets, you can be a part of the solution!**

Learn more about QCC Stormwater Management at [www.qcc.edu/stormwater](http://www.qcc.edu/stormwater)



Pet waste contains two main types of pollutants that impair waterbodies. Harmful bacteria and parasites, such as E. coli and Giardia, can cause serious illness and infection.

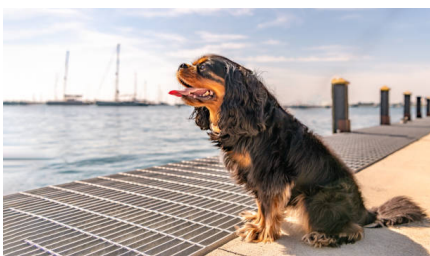
Pet waste can also contain high amounts of nutrients, encouraging excessive algae growth and causing water bodies to become cloudy and green.



### Every time you walk your dog, make sure to:

- Carry bags to pick up pet waste
- Dispose of waste in a trash can
- Never put pet waste down a storm drain

**Chapter 8, Section 13.A.9** of the City of Worcester Code of Ordinances prohibits dog-owners from allowing their dog “to deposit any excrete on any property, whether public or privately owned, which is open to the public, without immediately removing such excreta”



In 2021, the City of Worcester’s Department of Public Works & Parks installed dog waste stations throughout downtown, making it easier for you to properly dispose of pet waste.



Learn more at [www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org](http://www.ThinkBlueMassachusetts.org)