

# Bag it. Trash it.

Protect our community.



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
STORMWATER  
COALITION  
COLLABORATION  
FOR CLEAN WATER

## Every Poop Matters

According to recent studies, over 50% of U.S. households own a dog. We love our canine family members, but it's important to remember they're not wild animals and that means their waste can be detrimental to the surrounding environment. While wildlife manure can act as a natural fertilizer, dog waste is different — it's a concentrated, slow decomposing, nutrient-rich pollutant. When left behind, dog waste can seriously harm the health of our local waterways. Do your part to make a difference and protect our community: **Bag it. Trash it.**

## WHERE PET WASTE DOESN'T BELONG

- At parks or along trails and paths
- On rocks or sand at the beach
- On sidewalks or along streets
- In storm drains or catch basins

## QUICK TIPS | DOING THE RIGHT THING

- Reuse old bags (such as grocery, sandwich, newspaper, produce or bread bags) to pick up and contain pet waste.
- Keep a supply of bags near your dog's leash so you're never caught unprepared.
- If you don't have a pocket or pack, tie used bags securely to the leash until you find a trash bin.
- Always clean up after your pet and dispose of waste properly in the trash.



As part of the USEPA's 2017 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in New Hampshire, the **Town of Stratham** is required to educate residents and businesses on pollution prevention. This fact sheet is intended to fulfill permit requirements.

## Why Pet Waste Is a Problem

When pet waste is left on lawns, trails, beaches, streets, or sidewalks, rain washes it into nearby wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, and the ocean. Pet waste contains high levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and harmful bacteria and parasites, such as *E. coli* and *Giardia*, which pose health risks to people and animals alike.

Once in the water, pet waste breaks down and releases disease-causing organisms and excess nutrients linked to algal blooms. This process reduces oxygen levels needed by fish and other aquatic life and can make water unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities — sometimes leading to beach closures and use restrictions.



Visit the [NHDES MS4 Resource webpage](#) for more information.