



# Animal Waste

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We live in Lancaster County, a premiere farming area. Standards for the spreading and disposal of animal waste are placed on farms and farmers. This factsheet describes the more basic protocols for a suburban setting and how to be a good neighbor with your own animal waste disposal.



## Did You Know?

- Animal waste contains harmful bacteria which contributes to nutrient and pathogenic pollution in local waterways. These pollutants can lead to waterways becoming unusable for recreational activities.
- There are approximately 89.7 million dogs in the United States. One gram of dog waste contains about 23 million coliform bacteria. On average a dog excretes more than ½ lb of waste daily.
- Most parks and recreational areas have courtesy bags and trash cans for easy disposal of animal waste.

## Dog Waste Pollution

- Dog waste can actually be toxic to your soil. Dog waste needs to first be safely composted in an enclosed system before being considered a beneficial aid to the environment.
- Waste can seep into groundwater and spread salmonella and giardia. This poses a hazard to your pets, your family, and your landscape.
- Mowing your lawn won't necessarily help the issue. Mowers will actually chop up the waste into smaller pieces and spread it further throughout your yard where you, your children, and your pets continue to step in it and then bring it into your home.
- When in water, the liquefied waste consumes the oxygen and releases ammonia, which contaminates our resources as well as harms the fish that reside there, and with one in three households having a dog, the issue continues to grow.
- It can take over one year for dog waste to decay, but the parasite eggs it contained can linger on for years in your soil – leaving your family and your pets vulnerable to serious infection. These can include hookworms, ringworms, and tapeworms.

If you have any questions regarding nitrogen & pollutants please contact East Hempfield Township at 717-898-3100.