

The City of Winchester's streams and ponds are part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the largest estuary in the United States.

When it rains, pet waste, geese droppings, fertilizer, and other stormwater pollutants flow into the City's waterways and into the Chesapeake Bay system.

These pollutants are harmful to the thousands of species of plants and animals living in the Bay watershed (including fish, crabs and shellfish, birds, bay grasses, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians).

These pollutants are also harmful to people using the Bay system for recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and tubing.

the law

Winchester City Code
Article I, Section 11-3(d):

No person shall allow manure deposited by his/her animal to remain on any public highway, street, sidewalk, park, or other public property, or on private property without written consent...

A violation of this section constitutes a class-1 misdemeanor.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



City of Winchester
Public Services Department
Rouss City Hall
15 North Cameron St.
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 667-1815

The City greatly appreciates your help in protecting our precious water resources.

PICK IT UP



IT'S YOUR DOODIE!



AND IT'S THE LAW!

Winchester City Code, Article I, Section 11-3(d)

the problem

Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly; it is a health risk to pets, people, and water bodies.

Poop left on the street or on lawns does not go away or fertilize the ground. Instead, it is flushed into the nearest water way when it rains.

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria such as E. coli and fecal coliform, making the waters unfit for irrigation, recreation, or other uses. In addition, the nutrients contained in poop are harmful because they disrupt the water's natural ecology when in excess.

Five stream segments in the Opequon Creek Watershed are listed on Virginia's 303(d) list of impaired (polluted) waters due to benthic (aquatic organisms)



impairment and fecal coliform bacteria. This includes Abrams Creek, which flows through Winchester.

When pet waste is not properly disposed of, it can wash into nearby streams or be carried by runoff into storm drains. These storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities. Instead, they drain directly into our streams and ponds which are part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

the facts

In the City of Winchester, there are approximately 700 pet dogs.

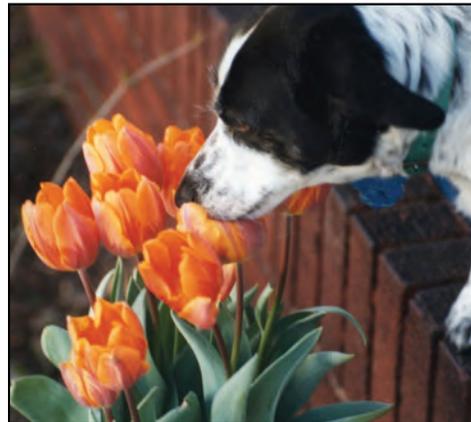
(Source: City of Winchester Treasurer, Oct. 2008)

If each dog produces an average of 3/4 pound of poop per day, that is approximately 525 pounds total per day, or over 80 metric tons per year in Winchester alone.

A single gram of pet waste contains an average of **23 million** fecal coliform bacteria, some of which can cause disease in humans.

It is estimated that 2 to 3 days of poop from a population of 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria and nutrients to temporarily close a bay for swimming and shellfishing.

(Source: EPA, 1993)



the solution

Be responsible and clean up after your pets. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Bring a bag.



2. Use the bag to pick up the pet waste.



3. Dispose of the bag properly in trash.

