



CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
**THE
WORKS**

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After Your Pet Goes, Where Does *It* Go?

■ Help keep local waterways
safe by properly disposing
of pet waste...

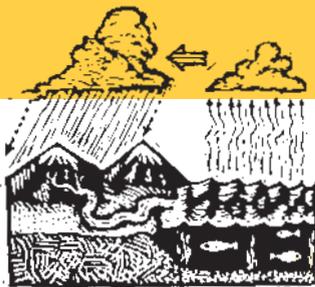


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Water washing over the land can pick up an array of contaminants that can runoff to our local rivers either directly or through the stormwater drains. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that pollution from this runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the U.S. Everyday personal actions you take can have a significant impact on water quality in our rivers.

As a pet owner you can help, simply by picking up after your pet. Being a responsible owner not only keeps the areas you walk clean for everyone, but also reduces contaminants in water runoff.



■ For more information on services of the Animal Commission, call **617.349.4376** or visit **www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/dept/animal.html**

■ For more information on how to keep Cambridge clean, contact the Department of Public Works at **617.349.4800** or visit **www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~TheWorks**

Did You Know?

- Pet waste significantly contributes to pollutants (bacteria and organic matter) in the Charles River and Little River/Alewife Brook
- Waste dumped or washed into catch basins (stormwater drains) is carried directly to rivers through the stormwater drain system. Even waste left in the street, far from a catch basin, can get washed into the drains during storms.
- Pet waste can carry viruses and bacteria that are extremely harmful to humans.
- Pet waste contains nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients that accelerate growth of damaging algae and aquatic weeds.
- In the City of Cambridge, it's illegal to leave pet waste in public areas, and even on private property you don't own or occupy.
- Pet waste is damaging to trees.

What You Can Do

- Always clean up after your pet and dispose of the waste in the trash, in a sealed or tied plastic bag, or in a toilet.
- Encourage your neighbors and other pet owners to be responsible; it's not hard, and it's part of the responsibility you have owning a pet.

What You Shouldn't Do

- Don't dispose of waste in a catch basin (stormwater drain). These systems go directly to local rivers.
- Don't use pet waste as a fertilizer. Bacteria in pet waste does far more harm than good.
- Don't add pet waste to a compost pile. The pile will never get hot enough to kill disease-causing organisms.

