

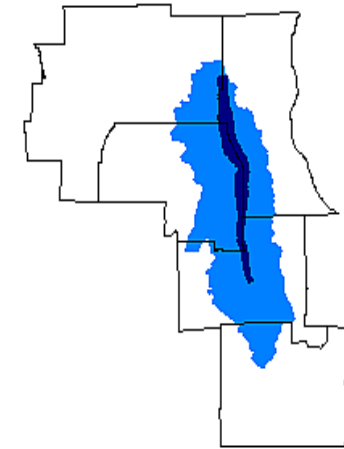
What can you do with  
the doggy doo?

- Put it in the trash.
- Bury it in the yard about 5 inches deep where soil organisms can break it down.
- It can be composted but the compost should not be used on vegetable gardens.
- Consider installing a dog toilet. These are special buckets with holes in the bottom placed into the ground on a bed of stones. (Some makers advertize an enzyme supposed to break down the poop.) When the bucket is full, water is poured into it to flush the broken down materials into the soil. These are placed as far away from wells, water bodies and vegetable gardens as possible.



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## **THE SCOOP ABOUT PET POOP**



**SLAP-5**

**Seneca Lake  
Area Partners in  
5 Counties**

## The Concern:

Water quality studies over the years have indicated serious concerns about pet droppings.

DNA analysis of bacteria found in America's lakes and streams shows that much of it is coming from household pets.

Studies in the United States and Australia have found that bacteria associated with dog droppings constitute 10%- 30% of the bacterial content of surface waters; putting dogs third or fourth on the list of contributors to bacteria in contaminated waters (after humans and waterfowl).

A single gram (an amount about the weight of a paper clip) of dog feces contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, including E. Coli.

Pet poop washes away in stormwater runoff and enters storm sewers, streams and lakes, and can even get into groundwater.



## Why this is a problem:

Some pathogens and parasites carried in dog waste:

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- Roundworm
- Giardia (Beaver Fever)
- Campylobacter
- Leptospira
- Tapeworm
- Cryptosporidium
- Viruses
- Salmonella
- E. Coli
- Fecal Coliform Bacteria

## We share a common history.

Dogs and humans have lived together for thousands of years. These pathogens and parasites are highly adapted to passing between pets and owners.

## Pet poop makes the water weeds grow.

Droppings contain nitrogen and phosphorus; nutrients that promote the growth of algae and water weeds. When algae decays, it uses oxygen needed by fish. 1 lb of phosphorus in any of the Finger Lakes promotes the growth of 500 lbs of water weeds/algae.

## The Solution:

The solution to the problem of pet waste entering local water bodies is simple. ***Responsible pet owners clean up after their pets.***

The number of licensed dogs in any community is usually about equal to the number of residents (check it out!). None of these animals can flush their waste.

Shoreline property owners and persons who walk their dogs along the shoreline need to be particularly aware of the need to clean up after pets.

Leaving a buffer of unmowed vegetation next to a water body creates a margin of safety against nutrients and contaminants entering the water. A bag with droppings enclosed and placed in the trash bin is better. Biodegradable bags are available for the purpose in some places.

Cat litter boxes can also be a source of nutrient, bacterial and viral contamination if they are emptied where the contents can be carried away in surface runoff.

Bacterial infections of aquatic animals have been linked by DNA analysis to cat feces entering water bodies.

