



Be the Solution to Water Pollution at Hanscom!

Picking up after your pet is part of being a responsible owner. It avoids “unpleasant surprises” for those that follow and prevents your pet’s waste from causing water pollution and health hazards. And, it’s the law.

Here's The Scoop...



Pick Up After Your Pet

It all begins with you!

Pick up after your pet every time they go outside **even in your own back yard.**

Picking up after your pet helps keep our rivers, lakes and streams healthy for recreation. Doing the right thing is easy! It only takes a minute. Simply scoop the poop with a plastic bag and TOSS it in the garbage.

What's the problem?

A single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, some of which cause diseases in humans. The headwaters of the Shawsheen River begin in the Hanscom AFB housing area. The river is considered impaired under the Clean Water Act for fecal coliform. Downstream, the Shawsheen River flows into the Merrimack River which is the drinking water source for over 600,000 people in the Boston area.

Every time it rains water runs off the land as storm water. As it flows over rooftops, lawns, driveways and streets, storm water picks up pollutants and debris such as dirt, motor oil, fertilizer, pet waste, leaves and litter.

When you fail to clean up after your pet, the poop left on sidewalks and lawns is both unpleasant and a nuisance. But it can become an even bigger problem when it rains and is carried by storm water into nearby rivers, lakes and streams. It can create a health hazard for people and can “doo” a lot of damage to the environment.

Did you know?

According to the American Veterinarian Medical Association, there are 72 million dogs in the United States. The average dog produces three quarters of a pound of waste a day. That means our pets generate 10 million tons of dog poop a year!