










## Pet Waste Fun Facts

-  Approximately 37% of Indiana households own a dog. Based on that, over 20,500 households in Tippecanoe County have at least 1 dog.
-  Dog waste is raw sewage and should be treated as such. You can flush the waste and it will be treated at the sewage treatment plant.
-  Dogs do not produce beneficial waste, it is NOT fertilizer!
-  Dog waste should not be placed in a composter as the temperatures typically do not get high enough to kill the harmful bacteria.
-  Flies and other insects may also increase when pet waste is not properly disposed of. This can lead to another potential method for disease transmission.
-  Dog waste has double the bacteria and pathogens as human waste and 10 times as much as cow waste.
-  Pet waste can cause the same water quality problems as excess fertilizer or livestock manure.



The **Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality™** seeks to partner with local, state, and federal government and other stakeholders to provide quality of life and protection of health, environment, and economy that citizens desire and deserve as they serve as stewards of natural resources, system infrastructure, and public funds while solving stormwater and water quality issues.

The Partnership consists of the following entities:

- Tippecanoe County
- City of Lafayette
- City of West Lafayette
- Purdue University
- Town of Battle Ground
- Town of Dayton
- Ivy Tech of Lafayette

Due to the importance of this issue, the **Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality™** has chosen to focus their 2011 and 2012 education and outreach efforts on the impacts and risks associated with pet waste entering the storm sewer system and eventually local streams and rivers.

### Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality™

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## Pet Waste and the Potential Impacts to Water Quality

WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE LAWN,  
REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST  
GO ON THE LAWN.



# How does pet waste impact water quality?

## Every time it rains...

There is a potential for thousands of pounds of pet waste to be washed from yards and sidewalks and into the storm sewer.

If dog waste is left on the grass or sidewalk, rain can carry the waste away. However, this polluted water eventually makes its way to nearby ponds, streams, and rivers. Impacts associated with pet waste include:

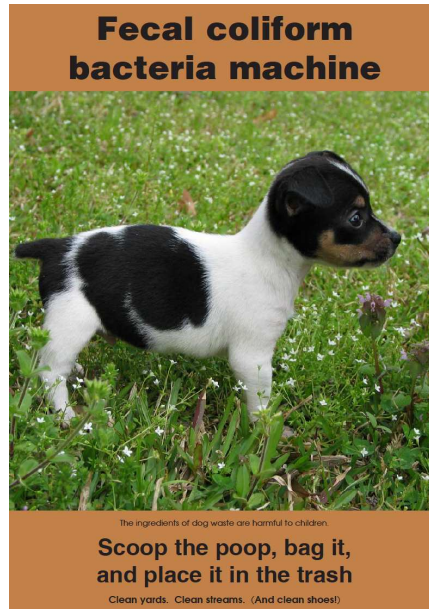
- 🐕 Increased loading of nitrogen and phosphorus that can lead to excess weed and algae growth in the water
- 🐕 Increased organic matter which when it decays, can reduce oxygen available for fish and other aquatic organisms
- 🐕 Increased loading of bacteria and pathogens that can make people and other pets sick

It is estimated that approximately 35,000 dogs live and poop in Tippecanoe County. **These dogs produce about 11,550 pounds of poop each day.** One pound of dog poop can contain 10,000,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria.



## Pet Waste May Affect Your Health

Pet wastes contain bacteria and pathogens that can spread diseases between pets, as well as to humans. The most at-risk groups are children playing outside and adults working in their gardens and/or flower beds.



Some of the diseases that can be spread through pet waste are:

- 🐕 **Campylobacteriosis:** a bacterial infection causing diarrhea in humans
- 🐕 **Giardiasis:** a protozoan infection causing diarrhea, cramping, fatigue, and weight loss
- 🐕 **Salmonellosis:** a bacterial infection causing fever, muscle aches, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea
- 🐕 **Toxocariasis:** a parasitic infection causing cough, fever, vision loss, and rash

## So What Should You Do?

As a pet owner, you have several options that will protect water quality as well as the health of people and pets throughout the neighborhood and watershed.

- 🐕 Waste can be disposed of by securing the waste in a bag and throwing it in the trash. (There are biodegradable options for the bags)
- 🐕 Waste can be flushed down the toilet (if you are served by a sanitary sewer) and it will be treated just as any other sewage from your home. Just remember, don't flush the bag!
- 🐕 If you have a septic system, it is best to dispose of pet waste in the trash.
- 🐕 Pet waste is not fertilizer and should not be placed in flower beds, vegetable gardens or compost piles.
- 🐕 Always carry baggies for your pet, as well as an extra for another pet in need.
- 🐕 When available, utilize pet waste stations provided by local communities and parks.



The City of Lafayette provides dog waste stations in and around the Shamrock Dog Park.