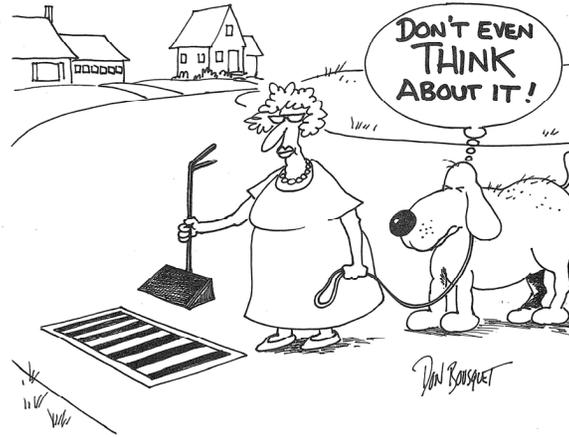


## *Don't Feed the Waterfowl*

Unfortunately, an activity many of us enjoyed as children actually has damaging impacts not only for the waterfowl themselves, but also for local waters. While ducks, geese and swans love to eat the bread we offer them, it lacks the nutrition of their natural diet and can cause long-term health problems.

Feeding waterfowl also causes them to concentrate in higher numbers than they would if they had to rely solely on natural food supplies, and that results in large quantities of waste for local waters! It's also illegal to feed waterfowl in the state of Rhode Island.

If geese visit your property, you can discourage them by letting a natural buffer grow.



## *For More Information*

### **Visit the following websites:**

[www.SouthKingstownRI.com](http://www.SouthKingstownRI.com)

[www.RIStormwaterSolutions.org](http://www.RIStormwaterSolutions.org)

[www.URI.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index\\_livestock.html](http://www.URI.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index_livestock.html)

[www.DEM.RI.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/dontfeed.pdf](http://www.DEM.RI.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/dontfeed.pdf)

### **Or Call:**

The South Kingstown Public Service Department at  
(401) 789-9331 extension 2250

Know Where It Goes . . .

# DO YOU SCOOP THE POOP?



**TSK STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

## Is It Really a Problem?

It might not seem like a stormwater problem, but animal waste is one of the many seemingly small sources of pollution that can add up to big problems for water quality, and even human health.

Animal waste contains two main types of pollutants that harm local waters: nutrients and pathogens (disease causing bacteria and viruses). When

this waste ends up in water bodies, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. This makes water murky, green and even unusable for swimming, boating or fishing.

As you can see, animal waste doesn't simply decompose.



So, the easiest way to avoid these problems is to clean up after your pet each and every time and dispose of the waste in the trash.



**Pet waste doesn't decompose. It adds harmful bacterial and nutrients to local waters.**



## Be Prepared!

- Picking up after your pet is easy, if you're prepared. Simply carry a plastic bag with you on every walk with your dog, and you'll have the equipment to remove your dog's waste. Then throw it in the nearest trash can, and you're done!
- South Kingstown has installed courtesy bags designed specifically for dog waste in many of the parks and recreational areas dog lovers visit.
- Avoid letting your dog do his business within 200 feet of a water body.
- And, of course, never throw dog waste into a stormdrain!

## Pet Waste at Home

- For dogs, cats, and other pets that are meat eaters, it's important to dispose of the waste in the garbage. Wastes from meat eaters should not be placed in a compost pile because the parasites, bacteria and viruses are not readily destroyed during the composting process and can be passed on to humans.
- While it's common courtesy to pick up after your dog when you go on walks, it's also a good idea to pick up after him at home. Some diseases can be transmitted from pet waste to humans through contact with the soil. Children playing outside and adults who garden are most at risk.
- If you have large animals, barnyard and manure management is critical to the protection of water resources. Please visit [www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index\\_livestock.html](http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index_livestock.html) for information specific to livestock.

