## BE A POOCH PAL

Hanover County is looking for Pooch Pals who are willing to maintain a County provided dispenser. Pooch Pal bag dispensers are mounted in high traffic areas. The Pooch Pal volunteer ensures that bags are available in the dispenser and checks the dispenser regularly in order to maintain a count of how many bags are used. Bag counts are reported to the county. For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works at (804) 365-6181.


Hanover County
Department of Public Works
P. O. Box 470
Hanover, VA 23069
Phone: (804) 365-6181
Fax: (804) 365-6233
www.co.hanover.va.us


Thank you for helping keep our waters clean!

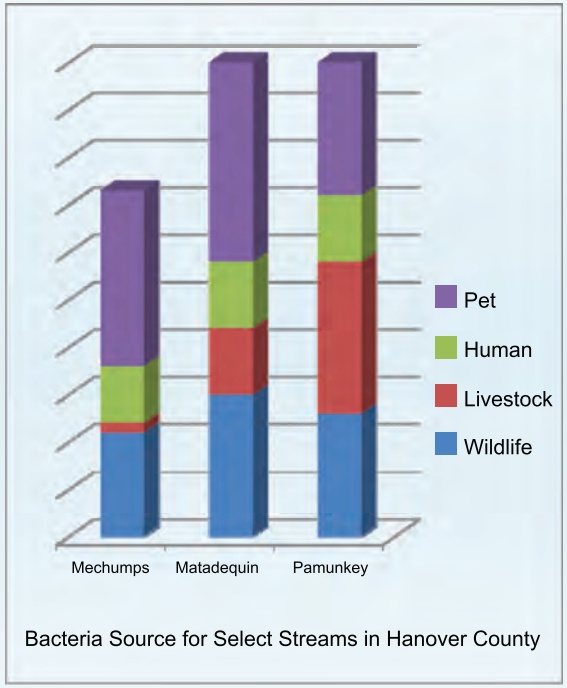
HANOVER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
P.O. BOX 470
HANOVER, VA 23069

# A PET OWNER'S GUIDE TO PET WASTE DISPOSAL AND WATER QUALITY

# IMPACTS OF PET WASTE ON WATER QUALITY

## PET WASTE POLLUTES

Waste that is left on the ground is washed off into local water bodies. Pet waste is a source of bacterial pollution. As pet waste decays in the water, it can encourage the growth of excess algae and depletes oxygen levels harming aquatic life.




Bacteria Source for Select Streams in Hanover County

You may not realize it, but pet waste is a significant source of pollution in several water bodies that are impaired for bacteria in Hanover. Using bacteria source tracking, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality identified the percent contribution of each of four sources of bacteria. In a number of cases, pet waste is the most significant source of bacteria contaminating the water body.

## AN AVOIDABLE IMPACT TO WATER QUALITY

Pet waste and the nutrients associated with it can pollute neighborhood streams. When pet waste is left in the open, it can runoff with stormwater when it rains. The runoff enters stormwater drains and ditches which discharge into creeks, ponds and other water bodies. Disposing of pet waste properly is important to keep our waters clean.

Stormwater pollution prevention is an important part of the community's effort to improve water quality. Protecting our neighborhood streams, and wetlands begins at home. By picking up after your pet, you are preventing pollution and enhancing the habitat of fish and other organisms that live in the waterways.

### GET A FREE PET WASTE COMPOSTING BIN

*A limited number of FREE pet waste composting bins are available from the Hanover Department of Public Works. For more information and availability on these bins, call Public Works at (804) 365-6181.*

# PROPER DISPOSAL

## AT HOME

Trash It — Dog waste and kitty litter should be bagged, tied securely and placed in the trash.

Flush It — Dog and cat waste can be safely flushed down the toilet (unless you are on a septic system). Don't flush kitty litter, as it can clog drains.

Bury It — Dig a hole in your yard at least one foot deep and at least 100 feet away from any well, drainage ditch, or stream.

Compost It — Pet waste composting bins are available at many pet supply stores. The bins can be buried in your yard. Pet waste placed in the bin will naturally break down and become absorbed into the soil eliminating any further handling. To use these bins your soil should drain well.

## WHILE WALKING YOUR PET

Bag It — Bring plastic bags along on your walks to pick up pet waste. Reusing plastic newspaper or grocery bags works well. Tie the bag closed and deposit it in your trash.