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 PERMIT #220  
 Roanoke, VA

## Handy Tips

- When walking your pet, take a bag or two with you. Tie the bags on the leash if you don't have a pocket or pack.
- Keep a supply of bags handy near your dog leash, by the door or in your car.
- Make use of Mutt Mitt Stations in your neighborhood, downtown, along the greenway, or in your local park.
- Pick up your pet's waste in your own yard, too.
- Help spread the word! Talk to your family and friends about stormwater pollution and picking up after their pets.

Department of Public Works  
 Stormwater Division  
 1802 Courtland Rd. NE  
 Roanoke, VA 24012



# HERE'S THE SCOOP...

## Do Your Doody & Clean Up After Your Pet



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 [www.roanokeva.gov/Stormwater](http://www.roanokeva.gov/Stormwater)

 [Stormwater@roanokeva.gov](mailto:Stormwater@roanokeva.gov)

 540-853-5900



## Ever Leave Poop Behind?

Failing to clean up after your pet, especially in urban areas where there is little vegetation, is both unpleasant and a nuisance for other residents and business owners who live, travel and work in the area. While dog poop smells and is an irritation to others, the biggest concern is the bacteria lurking in the poop.

When precipitation falls on pet waste left on the ground, the stormwater runoff washes the pet waste into the stormdrain system. This polluted runoff then empties into nearby streams, rivers and lakes untreated, contaminating the water and creating a health hazard for people.

The City of Roanoke is home to 7055 registered dogs; that's 141 dogs per neighborhood or equal to 164 per square mile. A dog creates 117 pounds of waste per year. ***In total, our furry friends produce well over 824,000 pounds of waste each year.***

That's a lot of poop! In fact, it's enough to cover the Berglund Center Ice Rink at nearly 1.5 feet deep and it contains untold trillions of bacteria. Some, like E.coli, can survive in our soils for years, so it really adds up! Yikes, with figures like these, it's no wonder our streams are polluted with bacteria and are on a mandatory pollution diet.

It's not only bacteria that can make our local waterways unsafe to play in. There are other diseases and viruses contained in pet waste like Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, Toxoplasmosis, Roundworms, Coccidia, Tapeworms, Giardia, and Parvo. Additionally, excess nutrients from the wastes' decay can cause low oxygen levels and algal blooms that are harmful to aquatic life.

## Be part of the solution, not the pollution!

The City of Roanoke is adding numerous Mutt Mitt stations downtown, on greenways, and in parks and neighborhoods, to make it easy to clean up after your pet and we need you to do your part. It's *your doody* **and** it's *the law!*

Under Section 6-13 of Roanoke's city code, any owner or animal caregiver shall promptly remove and properly dispose of all feces left by the animal on any public property or on any private property not owned by such a person.



## It All Starts In Your Neighborhood

During a precipitation event, stormwater runoff flows over lawns, driveways, roads and other impervious surfaces picking up sediment and pollutants such as motor oil, fertilizer, pet waste and other toxins before traveling through the stormdrain system to the nearest stream. Stormwater runoff is not cleaned before it drains into our local waterways. Polluted stormwater contaminants are harmful to aquatic life, plants, fish and other wildlife...and humans.

**So pick up the poop!**

**Be part of the solution, not the pollution.  
Together, we can create a Clean Water Legacy.**

