

DRAFT

MARCH 2008

How You Can Help Your Neighbors Scoop The Poop!

What Do We Want Residents To Do?

- **Pick up pet waste**

What Are The Messages?

- **Picking up pet waste is easy when you carry a bag with you. Simply put the waste in the bag, and put the bag in the trash.**
- **It's the law, and it's common courtesy.**

Get Dog Owners to Scoop The Poop!

Pet waste is a nuisance that also pollutes surface waters, contributing bacteria and nutrients.

Urban and suburban areas contribute to the problem when pet waste on sidewalks and streets washes into stormdrains.

Parks and other popular dog-walking places are another site of stormwater contamination.

It is important to convey to our neighbors that they should pick up their pet's waste and that it's easy to do. Simply carry a bag

when you walk your dog; put the waste in the bag, and throw it in the trash.

It's the law (if your town has an ordinance), and it's common courtesy!

Pet waste does not just decompose. It adds harmful bacteria and nutrients to local waters, when it's not disposed of properly.



Does she have a Bags on Board®?

Inside this issue:

Get a Pet Waste Ordinance Adopted	2
Advertise the Ordinance Adoption	2
Offer and Advertise New Pet Waste Disposal Options	2
Publicize Yearly Reminders	3
Keep Track of Your Success	3
In A Nutshell	4

What Help Is Out There?

If you want pet waste to be less of a stormwater concern in your town, then we have a strategy for you!

This newsletter highlights four steps to achieving that goal. To help you along, we can offer you:

- a model ordinance,
- a fact sheet on the ordinance for Board members,
- prepared press releases,
- newspaper articles,
- a fact sheet about the

problem of pet waste for distributing to residents, and

- a Nitrogen removal calculation spreadsheet to figure out just how much the ordinance is helping local waters.

Step 1. Get a Pet Waste Ordinance Adopted



The following **materials** will be available online to help with this step:

- a model ordinance and supporting educational materials such as a fact sheet about the ordinance for Board members or the public
- a press release on the public comment period for the ordinance and on the ordinance hearing

Steps to take:

- Draft a pet waste ordinance.
- Coordinate a review at the town level.
- Distribute press releases.

Volunteers could be recruited to:

- comment on the ordinance



Step 2. Advertise The Ordinance Adoption

The following **materials** will be available online to help with this step:

- a press release on the ordinance adoption

Steps to take:

- Distribute press releases.

Step 3. Offer and Advertise New Pet Waste Disposal Options Such as Pet Waste Stations at Local Parks



The following **materials** will be available online to help with this step:

- a press release on the availability of new pet waste stations at local parks or along highly-trafficked streets
- a “coupon” to advertise a Bags-on-Board type product give-away, sponsored by the Town, a local organization or business

Steps to take:

- Purchase pet waste stations (\$300-\$400 each) and Bags-on-Board canisters (price depends on quantity, min. of \$2 each).
- Distribute press releases.
- Recruit volunteers to manage and maintain pet waste stations.
- Distribute “coupons” to local papers to advertise Bags-on-Board concept.

Volunteers could be recruited to:

- contact local vets, shelters, pet stores, and groomers regarding distribution of Bags-on-Board canisters and accompanying flyer about scooping the poop
- seek contributions from businesses for funds to purchase pet waste stations and Bags-on-Board
- distribute materials to locations
- keep records of number of bags refilled at pet waste stations and Bags-on-Board distributed

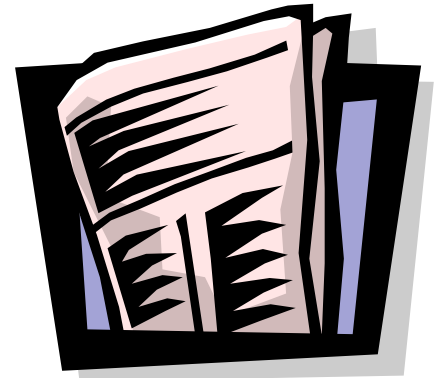
Step 4. Publicize Yearly Reminders

The following materials will be available online to help with this step:

- short articles for local papers reminding people about the ordinance, pet waste stations, and the benefits of picking up after your pet

Steps to take:

- Distribute the short articles to local papers.



Keep Track of Your Success

Documenting your success at having residents increase their efforts to pick up after their pets will be instrumental to having continued support for the program. Here are a few methods you could use :

1. Keep records of the number of press releases and articles that have been printed, informing the public about the program.
2. Ask the volunteers responsible for maintaining the pet waste stations to keep a record of how often they have to refill the bags and use that to estimate the amount of nitrogen and bacteria that have been removed as pollutants to local waters.
3. Ask the volunteers responsible for distributing the

Bags-On-Board to keep track of the number of canisters distributed.

The following **materials** will be available online to help you document your success:

- a Nitrogen removal calculation spreadsheet to figure how just how much your ordinance is helping local waters
- a form to make it easy for volunteers to record the refill of pet waste station bags and the distribution of Bags-On-Board canisters

Steps to take:

Keep a record of the number of press releases and articles that are printed in local papers.

Provide volunteers with the forms for recording pet waste station bag refills and Bags-On-Board canister distribution.

Complete the Nitrogen removal spreadsheet, using volunteer data from forms.

Volunteers could be recruited to:

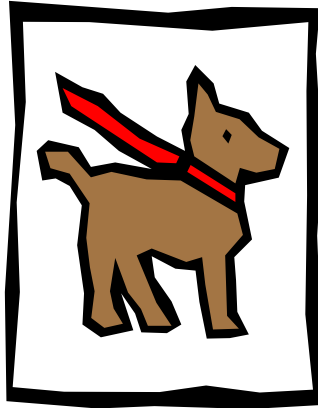
- Fill out the forms that document the refill of pet waste station bags and the distribution of Bags-On-Board canisters



In A Nutshell

We hope this newsletter has provided a guide for how you can help increase the frequency with which local residents pick up after their pets. In a nutshell, that strategy involves:

1. Adopt a pet waste ordinance
2. Advertise the ordinance adoption
3. Offer and advertise new pet waste disposal options
4. Publicize yearly reminders
5. Keep track of your success



Scoop The Poop!

Other Topics In The Series

This *Know Where It Goes!* Series offers strategies for addressing other stormwater problems such as:

1. Preventing illegal dumping at stormdrains
2. Helping business implement stormwater-friendly practices

The Series also includes fact sheets that address stormwater-friendly tips, including:

- The introductory top ten
- Lawn care
- Managing rooftop runoff
- Disposing of household hazardous waste
- Septic system care
- Auto care

About This Publication

This was produced in partnership with URI Cooperative Extension's RI NEMO program with support from the RI Health Office of Drinking Water and from the RI Departments of Transportation and Environmental Management under the Stormwater Phase II Education and Outreach Program.

For more information about the Stormwater Phase II Education and Outreach Program, including resources such as the supporting materials mentioned in this newsletter, please visit our website. It is undergoing construction, but is continuously updated and will have a whole new look soon!

[WWW.URI.EDU/CE/WQ/
RESOURCES/STORMWATER](http://WWW.URI.EDU/CE/WQ/RESOURCES/STORMWATER)

Rhode Island Nonpoint Education For Municipal
Officials (RI NEMO)
University of Rhode Island
1 Greenhouse Road
Kingston, RI 02881

Lorraine Joubert
Phone: 401-874-2138
Email: LJoubert@uri.edu

