

# Guide to MS4

## Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

November 2022 Edition



## Dog Waste Disposal

**Dog waste disposal can be a chore that no one wants to complete.**

Our pets are wonderful additions to our families. They bring joy, comfort and a source of activity to many homes. Our beloved pets also bring an increase in chores. One of those chores is the cleanup. The average dog can produce nearly a pound of waste each day. No matter the age, breed or size of the pet, disposal of their waste is a chore!

Whether we are in our own yards, at the dog park or walking in the neighborhood our pet waste needs to be disposed of properly. Communities within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are looking to preserve and save local waterways from contamination. Disposing of pet waste in a storm drain is not an option. Consider these 3 eco-friendly options to save our waterways, reduce pollution in local storm drains, and eliminate pet waste for your community.

### Compostable Bags

Consider purchasing compostable bags to place your dog waste. Plastic bags can take up to 20 years to decompose in ideal conditions. Even after decomposition, plastic particles are still in the soil for many years. Pet waste can contain as much as twice as much bacteria as human waste.

### Waste Disposal System

Consider a waste disposal system. This is a system that can be purchased or built, if you're handy, as a collection site in your yard for pet waste. The use of water and enzymes help to decompose the pet waste and dispose of it in an eco-friendly way. This option works well for households with multiple furry friends.

### Flush It!

The most eco-friendly way to dispose of dog waste is to flush it. Anything that goes down your toilet is treated at a sewage treatment plant unless you have a septic system. Check with your local sewage treatment plant for acceptable water-soluble bag options or directions to flush your pet waste.