

# The Town of Sullivan's Island Says:

## Scoop It, Please!

*Picking up after your dog helps protect  
our region's health and water quality.*



When left behind, dog waste does not just disintegrate. It runs into our waterways during rainstorms - the equivalent to *dumping raw sewage in our beach water.*

### Dog waste gets in the water....so what?

- While much water pollution comes from specific outlets like industry, development, and landfills, **dog waste is a source YOU can help control.**
- It is a primary source for coliform bacteria, viruses, and internal parasites.
- The top pollutant in SC waterways is fecal coliform bacteria.
- These contaminants cause roundworm or hookworm infections, Giardia, and Salmonella.

**Make it a habit to clean up after your dog every time.** Having dogs on the beach is a special privilege for which we don't want others to pay the price.

### By the Numbers

- Almost 1/2 the U.S. families own a dog, and many dog owners admit to not picking up the waste – yet even a small dog can have an impact.
- Sullivan's Island sold over 1,500 dog licenses last year. On a pretty weekend morning there can be as many as 400 dogs on the beach at once.
- The bacteria in one day's waste from one large dog could possibly close 15 acres of shellfish beds depending on proximity.
- Barrier island beaches carry waste to sea in water flowing over or just below the surface of the sand.
- Dog waste contributes to nearly 30% of our water pollution.
- Our Goal – Having 100% of dog owners pick up after their dogs. **OVER**

### Doggie DO's:

- ü Pick up after your dog.

- ü Carry bags with you and tie them shut when used and throw them into a trash receptacle.
- ü IF you use flushable or no bags, and IF you are on a sewer system, dog waste can go in the toilet.

**Doggie DO NOT:** Use dog waste as fertilizer or in compost. It can burn or discolor the grass, and compost does not heat up enough to kill any pathogens.

**WHAT ELSE POLLUTES THE WATER?** Lawn fertilizers and pesticides, runoff from driveways and streets containing motor oil or gas commonly ends up in creeks, marshes, and ocean water.

For more information on healthy waters, visit <http://coastalconservationleague.org/nonpoint-source-pollution/>

**DON'T FORGET:** Dogs must be licensed every year to visit Sullivan's Island. For more information, contact the Town of Sullivan's Island or view [www.sullivanisland.sc.gov](http://www.sullivanisland.sc.gov)



**COASTAL CONSERVATION LEAGUE'S MISSION** is to protect the natural environment of the South Carolina coastal plain and to enhance the quality of our life of our communities by working with individuals, businesses and government to ensure balanced solutions.

**Cleaning up after your pet is a great start to promoting water quality.**

**If you are interested in doing more for water quality or other environmental issues in the Lowcountry, please visit our web site:**

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

or contact project manager Katie Zimmerman at (843) 725-1292 or [KatieZ@scccl.org](mailto:KatieZ@scccl.org)

*"Nature and Community in Balance"*

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