

Did you know that:

There are 10,500 dogs in the Hempstead Harbor watershed.

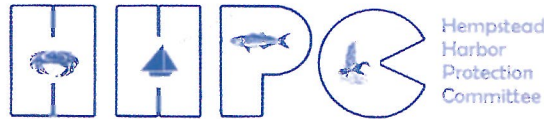
Consider this:

A dog creates an average of 3/4 of a pound of waste a day. That means that about 7,875 pounds (or 3.94 tons) of dog waste is generated in the Hempstead Harbor watershed each day!



When it rains, bacteria from pet waste can wash directly into our streets and then into storm drains and ultimately into the harbor untreated.

Remember -
If You Don't Pick Up
After Your Dog -
Who Will?



Who We Are -

The Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee is an inter-municipal coalition of nine local governments including 5 villages, 1 city, 2 townships and 1 county which are dedicated to working together with community, business, school and other groups to improve the water quality and habitat of Hempstead Harbor for its human and wildlife populations

Participating Municipalities

Village of Flower Hill
Village of Roslyn
Village of Roslyn Harbor
Village of Sands Point
Village of Sea Cliff
Town of North Hempstead
Town of Oyster Bay
County of Nassau

Committee Chair

William Clemency, Flower Hill

Committee Advisors

N.Y.S. Department of State
N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation
N.Y.S. Legislative Commission on
Water Resource Needs of Long Island
New York Sea Grant
The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor
The Glenwood / Glen Head Civic Association
The North Shore Environmental Alliance

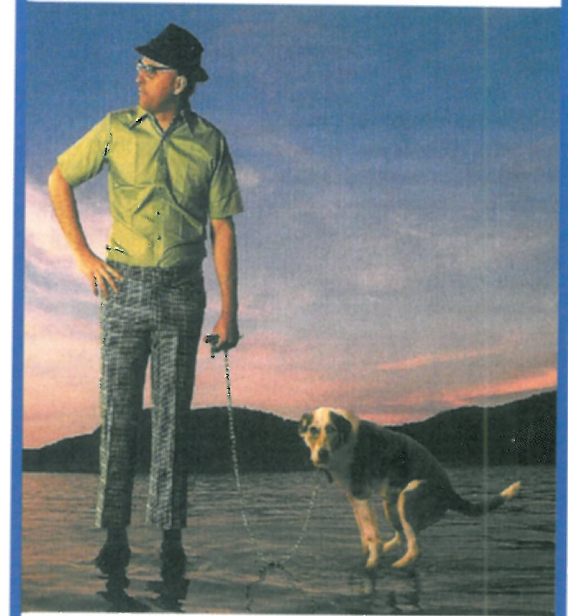
Committee Director

Eric Swenson



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PET WASTE



PROTECT
HEMPSTEAD HARBOR

IT'S YOUR
DOODY!

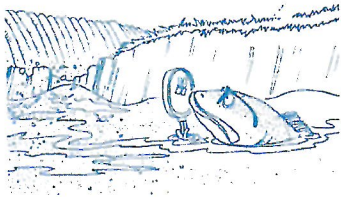


Pet Waste Pollutes Our Waterways

Pet waste is a health hazard and a storm water pollutant. Storm water runoff can wash bacteria from pet waste directly into waterways such as Hempstead Harbor or into storm drains which then drain to the harbor (even if you are miles away).

Bacteria, parasites and viruses contained in pet waste are a health risk to other animals and people, especially children.

In particular, fecal coliform bacteria, found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, is a common pollutant in Long Island waterways. High levels of this bacteria indicates that water may be unsafe for human contact.



In addition to health risks, poor water quality caused by pet waste can also lead to shellfish bed closings. This is one of the reasons why beaches are sometimes closed after heavy rains.

Nutrients in pet waste also encourage weed and algae growth. This nutrient-rich water is cloudy, green, unattractive and unhealthy for swimming, boating, fishing or drinking.

Finally, when pet waste decays, it uses up oxygen and releases ammonia which can lead to fish kills.

Pet Waste Can Cause Health Problems

When pet waste is left on the ground or disposed of improperly - water quality in our creeks and waterways suffers and your health may be at risk too. Flies also spread diseases found in pet waste. Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans include:

Campylobacteriosis— a bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.

Salmonellosis—The most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans by other animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.

Toxoplasmosis —A protozoan parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects such as mental retardation and blindness if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy; also a problem for people with suppressed immune systems.

Pet waste can also contain e.coli bacteria, roundworm, giardiasis, tuberculosis and cryptosporidiosis.



Fecal Coliform Bacteria

A bacteria present in the feces of warm blooded animals and a common pollutant in waterways. High levels of fecal coliform bacteria indicate that:

- other harmful microorganisms may be in the water as well
- a potential health risk exists for individuals exposed to this water.

CLEANING UP PET WASTE

There are many factors contributing to water pollution, but pet waste is one you can easily prevent. Listed below are several simple ways to dispose of pet waste properly:

- .. Always clean up after your pet
- .. Use a scooper, bag or shovel to pick up pet waste (Remember to put waste in a bag and seal it before placing in the trash. It's best to double-bag the waste.)
- .. Utilize free pet waste stations (like the one below) whenever you see them. The Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee has installed them in Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Glenwood Landing and Roslyn.
- .. Flush pet waste down the toilet.
- .. Install a pet waste digester on your property .. Waste from cats should also be contained. Provide litter boxes for outdoor cats. (Dispose of the kitty litter properly.)
- .. **DO NOT** dispose of pet waste by composting or dumping it in storm drains or ditches
- .. **DO NOT** leave pet waste on streets, sidewalks or other impervious (hard) surfaces where it can wash into storm drains, ditches or waterways



Use pet waste stations