

Dogs, Wildlife, and Land



SVT welcomes dogs on our trails, but we ask dog walkers to comply with our signs indicating the rules for walking dogs. Our policies are established to protect the land and to keep dogs, people, and wildlife safe.

Off-Leash Impacts

Here are some things to consider if you choose to walk your dog off leash where it is allowed:

When dogs go off the trail, they may trample and damage vegetation, sometimes disturbing sensitive ground-nesting birds and other wildlife.

Constant traffic to waterways erodes banks and adds sediments to ponds, streams, and vernal pools, negatively impacting the habitat of aquatic species.

We require dog walkers to pick up and dispose of dog waste when on our trails.

Many people assume dog waste is harmless and is similar to the feces of other animals. This is not the case.

Pick Up Dog Waste

Won't dog waste just disappear?

No. Dog waste does not simply decompose in a beneficial, or even benign, way. Dog waste can carry diseases and bacteria that can persist and that are unsafe for humans and other dogs. When left behind, the bacteria are drawn into groundwater. In fact, studies have found that 20% of the bacteria in water samples originated with dogs as host animals. Waste from one large dog can contain 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria.

Who is harmed by dog waste?

Pets, children playing outside, and adults gardening are most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in dog waste:

Salmonellosis is the most common bacterial infection transmitted from animals to humans; symptoms include headache, fever, muscle ache, vomiting and diarrhea. **Campylobacteriosis** is another common bacterial infection; symptoms include diarrhea in humans. **Toxocariasis** results from roundworms transmitted from animals to humans; symptoms include fever, rash, vision loss, and cough.



Safe Disposal

Please help us protect the land and keep it enjoyable for everyone!

When Walking

In addition to its infectious properties, dog waste is unsightly and detracts from the pleasure of a walk. Please dispose of it properly:

- Take a plastic bag with you when you walk .
- Put the bag on your hand like a glove, pick up the waste, turn the bag inside out around the waste, and seal or tie the bag.
- Place the bag in the trash. Please do not leave it behind.



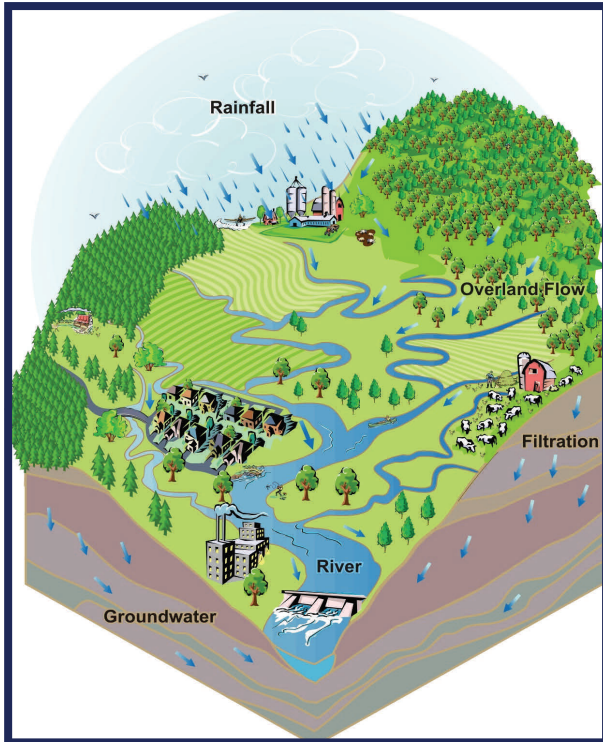
In the Yard

- Pick dog waste up from your yard.
- Pick it up promptly! Some bacteria and parasite eggs take days to become infectious and then can linger for years in soil and water.
- Flush it down the toilet or securely seal in a bag and place the bag in the trash.
- You may bury un-bagged pet waste at least 6 " deep, away from gardens and water.

We All Live Downstream

Rain and melting snow seeps into the earth and sends runoff across streets, sidewalks, parking lots, lawns, and soil.

If dog waste is in its path, the water will pick up its bacteria and nutrients along with other contaminants, ending up in our groundwater or washed into streams, ponds, and rivers.



Be A Part of the Solution

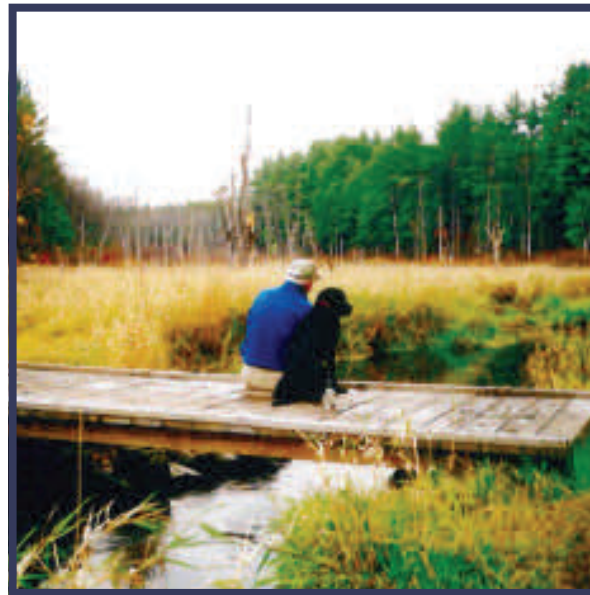
Thank you for helping us keep our natural areas clean and safe for everyone and every dog!

About SVT

Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) is a regional land trust that conserves land and protects wildlife habitat in a 36-community region along the Concord, Assabet, and Sudbury Rivers.

Together with our 3000 members, SVT is responsible for the care and protection of over 4400 acres, which include wetlands, sensitive habitats, and a 55-mile trail network.

Visit our website for more information on our conservation work and how your membership can make an impact. www.svtweb.org/donate



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DOG WASTE: Where does it go?

The Impact of our Dogs on Trails, Yards, and Water

