

## *Canines for Clean Creeks*

Dogs are great companions for fresh air, exercise, and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural surroundings. However, pet waste has a negative impact on streams, walking trails, and natural areas. Recent studies by Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and Villanova University have documented that our local creeks frequently have levels of fecal coliform bacteria three or more times the state recommended maximums for safe water contact. Studies by the Center for Watershed Protection have found that a significant portion of fecal coliform bacteria in residential stormwater originates from dog waste. These levels escalate when stormwater washes contamination from pet droppings into storm drains.



One average size dog dropping contains 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria. Multiply that by the fact that 40% of households have a dog, you can see how this problem “piles up”, and adds to the challenge of treating much of our creek water for drinking water.

Do your part to make your dog a friend of our creeks, fellow walkers, and our natural environment:

- Scoop up after your pet and dispose the waste properly- in a trash can or toilet
- Keep your pet on a leash and on trails in natural areas and avoid contact with wildlife
- Remain within off leash areas when off leash
- Encourage your friends and family to do the same!

**Source: Center for Watershed Protection, [www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org) .** This message is brought to you by your municipality and Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, [www.crcwatersheds.org](http://www.crcwatersheds.org).