

## DON'T FEED THE WATERFOWL

Unfortunately, an activity many of us enjoyed as children actually has damaging impacts not only for the waterfowl themselves, but also for local waters. While ducks, geese and swans love to eat the bread we offer them, it lacks the nutrition of their natural diet and can cause long-term health problems.

Feeding waterfowl also causes them to concentrate in higher numbers

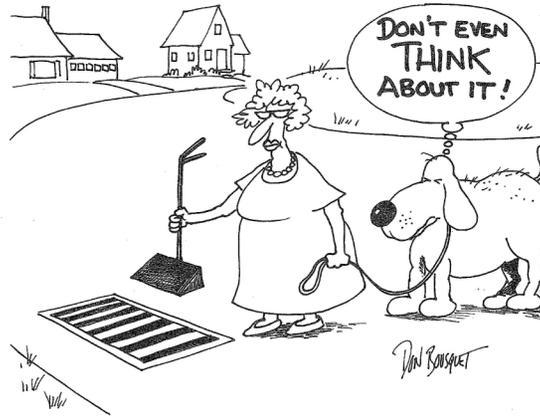


than they would if they had to rely solely on natural food supplies, and that results in large quantities of waste for

local waters! It's also illegal to feed waterfowl in the state of Rhode Island. If geese visit your property, you can discourage them by letting a natural



buffer grow.



## For More Information

### Visit the following websites:

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

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

[www.URI.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index\\_livestock.html](http://www.URI.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index_livestock.html)

[www.DEM.RI.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/dontfeed.pdf](http://www.DEM.RI.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/dontfeed.pdf)

### Or Call:

The Town of Charlestown Office of Wastewater Management at (401) 364-5030



Know where it goes.....

# Do You Scoop The Poop?



Town of Charlestown  
Stormwater Management  
Program



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

(401) 364-5030

## IS IT REALLY A PROBLEM?

It might not seem like a storm water problem, but animal waste is one of the many seemingly small sources of pollution that can add up to big problems for water quality, and even human health.

Animal waste contains two main types of pollutants that harm local waters: nutrients and pathogens (disease causing bacteria and viruses). When this waste ends up in water bodies, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. This makes water murky, green and even unusable for swimming, boating, and fishing.



As you can see, animal waste doesn't simply decompose. So, the easiest way to avoid these problems is to clean up after your pet each and every time and dispose of the waste in the trash.



**Don't Forget** There is a new dog park in Ninigret Park....



## BE PREPARED!

- ◆ Picking up after your pet is easy, if you're prepared. Simply carry a plastic bag with you on every walk with your dog. And you'll have the equipment to remove your dog's waste. Then throw it in the nearest trash can, and you're done.
- ◆ Charlestown has installed courtesy bags designed specifically for dog waste in Ninigret dog park and plans on doing so in recreational areas dog lovers visit.
- ◆ Avoid letting your dog do his business within 200 feet of a water body.
- ◆ And, of course, never throw dog waste into a storm drain!

## PET WASTE AT HOME

- For dogs, cats, and other pets that are meat eaters, it's important to dispose of the waste in the garbage. Wastes from meat eaters should not be placed in a compost pile because the parasites, bacteria and viruses are not readily destroyed during the composting process and can be passed on to humans.



- While it's common courtesy to pick up after your dog when you go on walks, it's also a good idea to pick up after him at home. Some diseases can be transmitted from pet waste to humans through contact with the soil. Children playing outside and adults who garden are most at risk.
- If you have large animals, barnyard and manure management is critical to the protection of water resources. Please visit [www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index-livestock.html](http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/livestock/index-livestock.html) for information specific to livestock.