



Pet Waste

FAST FACTS:



- **Don't litter pet waste.** Picking up after your dog is not only easy, in Hoboken it's the law! Failing to pick up after your pet is punishable by a fine from \$100 up to \$2,000 (Hoboken Code §93-16). For violators of this ordinance, city inspectors strongly recommend to the prosecutor a minimum fine of \$250.
- Pet waste left on the ground may wash into storm drains and end up polluting the Hudson River. The US Environmental Protection Agency has deemed pet waste a "non-point source of pollution," which puts it in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals.
- One gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. If not properly picked up and disposed, pet waste can spread bacteria, parasites, and diseases between pets, or pass them to humans.
- Dogs should be curbed to the street. Keep dogs away from trees – compaction and waste from walking your dog in tree pits can kill trees.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:



Pick up after your pet



Flushable poop bags



Biodegradable poop bags



Wheat cat litter

KEEP HOBOKEN CLEAN! We can work together to prevent smelly, unhealthy nuisances, and reduce pollution from pet waste.

1. **BARK. No matter what you do, pick up that dog poo.** When you don't pick up after your pet, this animal waste risks public health for other animals and people and can pollute the Hudson River.
2. **BARK. Dispose of pet waste properly.** Do not place bagged or un-bagged pet waste in a storm drain or hose pet waste towards storm drains as they drain directly to the Hudson River. City law prohibits disposing of waste in another person's garbage can without their permission (Hoboken Code §110-23).
3. **BARK. Reuse old bags for poop bags:** Newspaper bags, grocery bags, or sandwich bags. Always carry a bag when you walk your dog. Keep a supply of bags near or tied to your dog leash.
4. **BARK. Use biodegradable poop bags.** Between the petroleum used in the manufacture of the products and the plastic's perennial lifespan in a landfill, ordinary doggy poo-bags are an ecological mess. A few brands offer relatively sustainable alternatives, some even being compostable.
5. **BARK. Carefully flush or compost dog poo.** Specially made flushable doggy bags which effectively neutralize the pathogens and nutrients in the waste can be disposed of in the toilet. Dogs are natural carnivores, so their poop should *not* be added to traditional compost piles. Certain worm composting bins can be used.
6. **MEOW. Do NOT flush or compost cat poo.** Despite internet claims, teaching cats to use a toilet is not ideal. Cat poop should not be flushed because parasites common to felines are not killed by regular sewage treatment.
7. **MEOW. The *wrong* kind of litter.** Clay litter is a no-no for environmental sustainability, both the clumping and no-clumping kind. It is estimated by the US Geological Survey that 2.14 million tons of clay is strip mined each year for use in kitty litter. Clay based litter also takes several decades to biodegrade in a landfill.
8. **MEOW. The *right* kind of litter.** Biodegradable/plant based litter is made from corn or wheat and will break down whichever way it's disposed. Typically this litter clumps well, has a low smell factor and lasts longer. Crystal based cat litter has a high urine absorption rate, but may be abrasive to certain felines.
9. **BARK and MEOW. Adopt/Spay/Neuter your Pet.** Finding a pet in need of a good home from your local shelter is more sustainable option than buying one from a pet store or breeder. By adopting a pet, you are not only saving the life of your rescue, but you are helping to stop the proliferation of pets bred under cruel conditions. To curb the population of unplanned births and to keep the population down, it is best to spay or neuter your pet.

LEARN MORE:

Hoboken Pet Waste <http://hobokennj.gov/departments/human-services/health-department/pets/>

Composting Pet Waste <http://www.compostinstructions.com/poop-or-no-poop/>

Liberty Humane Society <http://www.libertyhumane.org/>