

# A pet owner's guide to Managing Pet Waste

## Managing Dog Waste at Home

Did you know that the City of Abbotsford is home to more than 6,000 licensed dogs? With an average dog producing 340 grams of fecal matter each day, this adds up to roughly 750 tonnes of dog waste generated every year in our City!

Abandoned dog waste contains harmful bacteria that can infect other pets or be transmitted to people. It can also contribute to water pollution of local streams and waterways through stormwater runoff.



**It is important for pet owners to clean up after their dog and not leave waste in parks, open spaces or on the street. Help keep our neighbourhoods and parks clean and odor-free!**

Here are some suggestions on how to properly manage dog waste at home:

- **Flush it** – Dog waste (without the bag) can be flushed in the toilet. The waste will make its way to the wastewater treatment plant where it will be treated with other sewage. Dispose of all dirty plastic bags in regular garbage (even the “flushable”, “compostable” or “biodegradable” ones). Bags should **never** be flushed down the drain as they can clog plumbing or the City sewer.
- **Bury it** – Bury the dog waste in your garden under trees or shrubs. Don't bury the waste near a vegetable garden or watercourse.
- **Compost it** – Build a pet waste composter in your backyard. Find out how at [www.cityfarmer.org/petwaste](http://www.cityfarmer.org/petwaste) or search “pet waste composter” online. Remember to compost your pet waste separately from your food and yard waste.
- **Collect it** – Use a pet waste collection service. There are companies that will collect dog waste from private spaces for a small charge. Companies offering this service can be found online by searching “dog waste collection”.
- **Double Bag it** – Dog waste is listed as being prohibited from garbage in the City's Solid Waste Collection Bylaw. However, small amounts of dog waste are acceptable if double-bagged before placing in the garbage. We encourage you to consider the other alternatives before placing the waste into the garbage. Large quantities of dog waste are best dealt with by a waste collection service.



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## Cat Waste & Litter

Cat feces can contain a parasite that is unsafe for people, especially pregnant women. Always wear gloves when cleaning a litter box. Don't flush, handle or compost cat feces or litter. Kitty litter (even "flushable" types) is often made of absorbent clay which can expand when wet and clog plumbing or the City sewer. Double bag litter box contents and dispose of in the garbage. Please note that no more than 5L of kitty litter is accepted in any one curbside container or bag.

## Other Litter Boxes & Pet Bedding

Feces from other pets such as hamsters, rabbits, gerbils, etc. can be dealt with in a similar manner as dog waste. You can flush it, place it in a pet waste composter, or double bag it and place it in the garbage. The remaining litter or bedding (e.g., sawdust, wood shavings, newsprint, etc.) should be double bagged and placed in the garbage.

## Parks & Pet Waste

Help keep our parks clean and odor-free by picking up after your dog! We encourage you to consider bringing the waste home and flushing it, burying it or composting it. At minimum, dog waste should be bagged and placed in a waste receptacle located within the park.

## Did you know...



**All dogs in Abbotsford, 4 months or older, must be licensed. Visit the [fvrd.ca](http://fvrd.ca) for more information on how to obtain or renew a license.**

Abbotsford currently provides 4 dog off-leash areas within its municipal park system:

- Gladwin Park (Gladwin Rd at Old Riverside Rd)
- Bateman Park / Stoney Creek (Bateman Rd entrance)
- McKay Creek Park / Sumas Dyke (North Parallel Rd at Atkinson Rd)
- Clearbrook Park (Sparwood St entrance)



**Visit [abbotsford.ca/offleash](http://abbotsford.ca/offleash) for more information on dog off-leash areas and etiquette.**

