

# A pet owner's guide to Managing Pet Waste

Did you know that pet waste is hazardous to the health of people and pets? Abandoned pet waste can contain a host of diseases and parasites that can infect other pets or in some cases be transmitted to people.

Not picking up after your dog is considered littering. Owners are required to pick up and properly dispose of feces left by their pet. Dog and cat feces are banned from garbage by Metro Vancouver at the Matsqui Transfer Station.

## How to dispose of pet waste

The following options are available to properly dispose of your pet's waste:

- Bury it in your in your backyard or in a pet waste composter. See reverse side for composter ideas.
- Flush it down the toilet. Be sure to remove any kitty litter or dirt. Kitty litter is often made of absorbent clay which can expand when wet and block sewer lines. Remove pet waste from ALL bags before flushing down the toilet. Plastic bags or bags labeled "flushable, water soluble or biodegradable" are not accepted in the sewer system.
- Use a pet waste pick up service. Visit [www.abbotsford.ca/engineering](http://www.abbotsford.ca/engineering) for local service companies.
- Kitty litter can be disposed of in the regular garbage according to the following guidelines: Kitty litter must be double bagged and securely tied before being placed in the garbage container. No more than 5L of kitty litter is accepted in any one container.



## Build your own pet waste composter

Follow these steps to properly compost dog waste:

- Choose a location that is a suitable distance away from your other composting systems and vegetable gardens, and from any water body, standing water, high groundwater, or groundwater well.
- Dig a hole in the ground approximately 60-90 cm (2-3 ft) deep and 60 cm (2 ft) across.
- Add a thick layer of shredded cardboard or other carbon-rich, absorbent material (coir, shredded paper, aged straw etc.) in the bottom.
- Use some sort of enclosure over top like a regular plastic backyard composter top. It will control the amount of water added and prevent flooding, allow you to add more material, and will help ward off children and animals.
- Add your pet's waste along with more bedding material or a layer of soil and sprinkle with water following each deposit.
- Finished compost can be used on ornamental trees and shrubs.



### DO

Bury pet waste under ornamental trees and shrubs.

Flush pet waste down a toilet where it can be treated by the waste water treatment facility.

Remove pet waste from ALL bags (plastic or biodegradable) before flushing down the toilet. Place soiled bags in the regular garbage.



### DON'T

Add pet waste to your backyard compost bin. It could make your compost unhealthy, retain odours and attract pests.

Bury pet waste near a vegetable garden.

Put pet waste into the storm sewer. Storm sewers do not connect to the sanitary sewers and treatment facilities, so pet waste can cause water pollution and present health risks to people and animals.

Compost kitty litter and feces.