

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LAWN

- ◆ Mow at a height of 3 inches or higher, and leave your clippings on the lawn.
- ◆ Perform a soil test on your lawn to learn about what amendments it needs and how to maintain a healthy soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0.
- ◆ Fertilize responsibly! Most lawns in this region need fertilizer in the fall, not in the spring or summer. Do not spread fertilizer if rain is forecast. Use appropriate amounts and amendments for the type of soil present in your yard.
- ◆ Use organic pesticides and herbicides to prevent weeds and control pests. “Spot treat” problem areas instead of spraying your entire lawn.
- ◆ Water your lawn approximately every 7-10 days. Set your sprinklers to run 2-4 hours to avoid runoff and waste water. The soil should be wet a depth of 4-6 inches when finished.
- ◆ Plant native perennials and shrub species based on the amount of sunlight your yard receives.
- ◆ Plant native trees to provide light shade in your yard for grasses and other plants.

For more information please visit
www.DelawareLivableLawns.org.

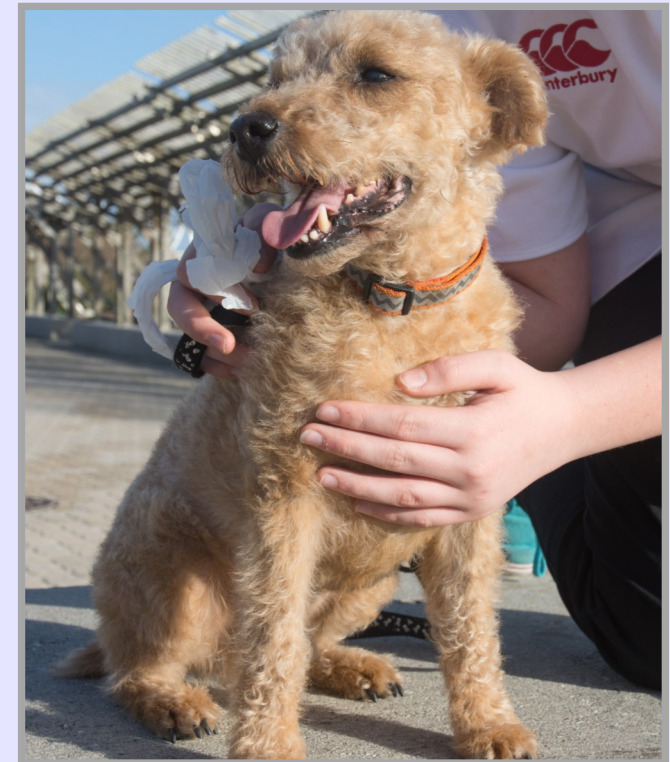
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**DOES YOUR DOG
LOVE THE
NANTICOKE?**

Let's Keep it Clean!



WON'T THE RAIN WASH IT AWAY?

When it rains, pet waste and other **pollutants** enter streams, rivers, and creeks via storm drains and ditches. Pet waste adds excess nutrients, bacteria, and diseases to local waterways.

Excess **nitrogen** can cause an increase in the production of algae. Algal blooms prevent sunlight from reaching the plants on the river bottom. When algae decays, bacteria absorbs the oxygen present in the water and releases ammonia, killing fish and other animals living in the water.

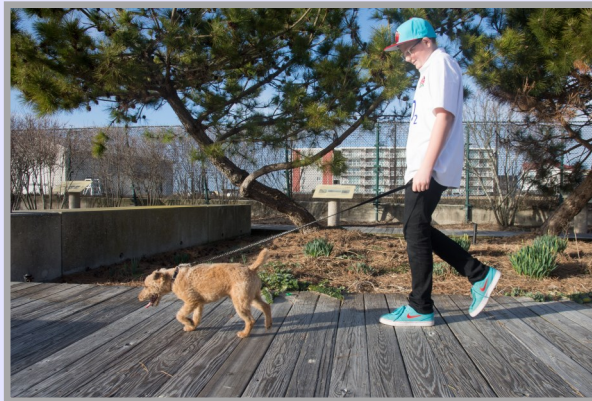
The presence of pet waste in the water pollutes drinking water, can shut down swimming and fishing areas, destroys aquatic habitat, and leads to a decline in fish populations.



Excess nitrogen causes algae blooms , which can lead to fish kills.

THE THREE “P”’S FOR WALKING YOUR PET

- ◆ **PREPARE:** Carry a bag (or two!) to pick up after your pet.
- ◆ **PICK UP:** Always clean up after your pet. Follow community laws and Homeowner Association regulations to avoid fines.
- ◆ **PLACE:** Bag pet waste, seal it, and place in an appropriate waste receptacle.



BACKYARD PRACTICES

- ◆ Pick up your pet waste, seal in a bag, and put in the trash. Do not compost.
- ◆ If you do not have time, hire a pet waste removal service. Have them pick up regularly.
- ◆ Bury pet waste in a hole at least 5 inches deep and at least 200 feet from waterway entry points (wells, ditches, storm drains, and gardens).
- ◆ Flush pet waste down the toilet if on a public sewer system. **DO NOT FLUSH KITTY LITTER!**
- ◆ Install a pet waste digester on your property, a “mini-septic system” for pet waste.

WATER QUALITY AND HUMAN HEALTH

Fecal coliform, a bacteria found in warm-blooded animals’ waste can carry diseases harmful to humans. Possible diseases include campylobacteriosis, salmonella, toxocariasis, and toxoplasmosis.

This bacteria can not only cause damage to our health but can limit recreational use of our waterways by making our creeks, streams, and rivers unsafe for swimming, fishing, shell fishing, and drinking.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a population of 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria in two to three days to temporarily close a bay and the surrounding area within 20 miles to swimming and shell fishing.

