Did you know that there are about 47,000 dogs in the Pioneer Valley, and that together, they produce about 17.5 tons of animal waste a day?

Dog waste does not act as an effective fertilizer. Stormwater runoff can wash dog waste into ponds, lakes, streams and drinking water supplies, causing outbreaks of *E. coli* and other bacteria harmful to both people and wildlife. It can contaminate parks, athletic fields and places where children play.

We all need to pick up and properly dispose of our pet’s waste in the trash can. Join all the dog owners in your neighborhood who are showing they care and take the PUP (Pick up Poop) Pledge at: [www.thinkblueconnecticutriver.org/pup-pledge-form/](http://www.thinkblueconnecticutriver.org/pup-pledge-form/%20)