

There are 77.5 million dogs owned in the United States, with 39% of U.S. households reporting they have at least 1 dog according to the Humane Society of the United States. It is imperative that we clean up after our dogs, and avoid allowing dog waste to wash down into storm drainage inlets and through channelized ditches into our waters. Dog waste contains germs, leading to high levels of coliform bacteria, which cause diseases, hurt aquatic life, and pollute our waterways. Due to the fact that the Chesapeake Bay watershed is considered one of the most environmentally sensitive waterways in the country, PAL is taking a pro-active approach to preserving the area. PAL holds our adoption event every Saturday at a local PetSmart store. PetSmart sells waste bags, both on-the-go (for approximately \$7 with dispenser) and household (approximately \$12 for package of 15). PAL supports responsible pet ownership by encouraging adopters, and visitors, to purchase these bags. Additionally, PAL volunteers lead by example. We walk our dogs available for adoption around the PetSmart property to stretch their legs and so that they may relieve themselves. We always utilize the bags provided by PetSmart and properly dispose of the waste in the receptacles provided. Furthermore, PAL encourages pet owners to pick up after their dogs on our website. When people do not pick up after their dogs, it is irresponsible and disrespectful to other property owners in addition to the environment. PAL realizes the importance of the environment and clean water for drinking, recreation, and aquatic life – if we do not do our part to protect our waterways, future generations of children (both human and furry) will not have the benefit of clean water. Clean water is a limited resource, contrary to popular belief, and all consumers of water need to do their part to preserve its integrity. Clean water is a commodity, one that is enjoyed by all. Not everyone is as lucky as the United States to currently have clean water; we need to protect that asset. PAL understands that and works to educate the public.