American Water Newsroom

‘Paws’ and Protect West Virginia’s Drinking Water Sources

West Virginia American Water Advocates for Responsible Pet Waste Disposal to Protect Water Quality

Charleston, W.Va., (Aug. 13, 2024) – As the summer weather brings more opportunities to enjoy time with our pets, West Virginia American Water is asking all pet owners to take a moment to ‘paws’ and protect our water.

“Pet waste impacts the water quality of nearby waterways and can introduce harmful nutrients and pathogens into our drinking water sources, complicating drinking water treatment,” said Jon Jarvis senior manager of water quality and environmental compliance for West Virginia American Water. “By simply picking up after our pets, we can help ensure cleaner drinking water across the Mountain State.”

Animal waste disposal is often overlooked, but the company is reminding pet owners that its harmful properties can cause pollution in creeks, rivers and lakes if not handled properly. These pet waste pointers can help West Virginians and their furry friends be sure that our drinking water sources remain free from pollution.

West Virginia American Water provides the following tips for disposing of pet waste properly:

- Bag it, bin it. Carry a plastic bag on every walk with your pet. You can even use compact, refillable bag dispensers that attach to your dog’s leash. After picking the waste up, dispose of it in the nearest trash can—never in a storm drain.
- Boundaries during business. Ensure your pet does their business at least 200 feet away from any water body.
- Bark for bags. Take advantage of courtesy bags and disposal boxes provided in many parks and recreational areas. If your park doesn’t already have these, ask your town to install them!

For more information regarding pet waste management, visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s website at epa.gov. Additional watershed protection tips can be found on West Virginia American Water’s watershed protection webpage.

About American Water

American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to more than 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water’s 6,500 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company’s national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit amwater.com and join American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram.

Media Contacts

Bradley Harris

Manager, External Affairs

NA

bradley.harris@amwater.com

https://newsroom.amwater.com/2024-08-13-Paws-and-Protect-West-Virginias-Drinking-Water-Sources