

**BOH**

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**From:** cmsmailer@civicplus.com on behalf of Contact form at West Tisbury, MA  
<cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:32 PM  
**To:** boh@westtisbury-ma.gov  
**Subject:** [West Tisbury, MA] Lambert's Cove Beach Summer rules/Dogs (Sent by C marrama, csepp@comcast.net)  
**Attachments:** lcb\_revised\_2020.pdf

Hello ojohnson,

C marrama ([csepp@comcast.net](mailto:csepp@comcast.net)) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.westtisbury-ma.gov/user/25/contact>) at West Tisbury, MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.westtisbury-ma.gov/user/25/edit>.

Message:

Attachements--2

1. Please see attached letter: Re Lambert's Cove Beach.
2. Click for article: <https://doodycalls.com/blog/toxic-waste/>  
Dog waste is an environmental pollutant and harmful to children --see below

Waste Not, Want Not

Dog waste is an environmental pollutant. In 1991, it was labeled a non-point source pollutant by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), placing it in the same category as herbicides and insecticides; oil, grease and toxic chemicals; and acid drainage from abandoned mines.

Far from Fertilizer

It has been estimated that a single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans. EPA even estimates that two or three days' worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay, and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it, to swimming and shell fishing.

Dog feces are one of the most common carriers of the following diseases:

Whipworms

Hookworms

Roundworms

Tapeworms

Parvo

Corona

Giardiasis

Salmonellosis

Cryptosporidiosis

Campylobacteriosis

For example, in the Four Mile Run watershed in Northern Virginia, a dog population of 11,400 is estimated to contribute about 5,000 pounds of solid waste every day and has been identified as a major contributor of bacteria to the stream.

Nearly 500 fecal coliform samples have been taken from Four Mile Run and its tributaries since 1990, and about 50

percent of these samples have exceeded the Virginia State water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria, according to EPA.

Why all this fanfare for feces, you may ask?

Well, EPA explains that the decay of your pet's waste actually creates nutrients for weeds and algae that grow in the waterways. As these organisms thrive on your dog's droppings, they overtake the water in a "Little Shop of Horrors-esque" manner, and limit the amount of light that can penetrate the water's surface. As a result, oxygen levels in the water decrease, and the fish and seafood we eat can be asphyxiated, EPA says.

#### A Toxic Cycle

If you aren't worried about the state of your local waterways, you may be a bit more concerned about the impact of dog waste a little closer to home. The thing about persistently disposing of stools improperly (or not at all) is that it kicks off a harmful cycle that can affect your whole family—including your pet.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pet droppings can contribute to diseases animals pass to humans, called zoonoses.

When infected dog poop is deposited on your lawn, the eggs of certain roundworms and other parasites can linger in your soil for years. Anyone who comes into contact with that soil—be it through gardening, playing sports, walking barefoot or any other means—runs the risk of coming into contact with those eggs; especially your dog.

Some of the hard-to-pronounce parasites your lawn could harbor include Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Salmonella, as well as hookworms, ringworms and tapeworms. Infections from these bugs often cause fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea in humans. Children are most susceptible, since they often play in the dirt and put things in their mouths or eyes.

EPA discovered from a survey that 40 percent of the people who live in the area immediately surrounding the Chesapeake Bay—which experienced significant pollution throughout much of the 1990s—did not pick up after their dogs because it was "too much work."

Others neglected to do so because they assumed it eventually goes away, or because the dog deposited the feces in an area far from the water, such as in the owner's yard or in the woods. For all of these reasons, EPA says, "The reluctance of many residents to handle dog waste is the biggest limitation to controlling pet waste."

So, in essence, the cycle begins and ends with you. In the instance of the Chesapeake Bay survey, 44 percent of dog walkers who did not pick up after their dogs indicated they would still refuse to pick up—even if confronted by complaints from neighbors, threatened with fines, or provided with more sanitary and convenient options for retrieving and disposing of dog waste.

RE Lambert's Cove Beach--Use &

Recent article --Lambert's Cove Beach Stays Open, Parking Reduce Vineyard Gazette,  
Lambert's Cove Beach Stays Open, Parking Reduced by Will Sennott on Wednesday, May 6,  
2020 - 12:05 pm

To: Board of Health, Parks & Recreation Department: (cc Selectman)

For the past few years, it has been nearly impossible to get a parking space at LCB during regular beach hours during the summer. Myself and family had resorted to going to the beach before or after hours. However, the practice that allowed dog owners to frequent the beach in the morning hours, has also opened up the beach to non-residents during other hours as well, and made it impossible to park. I ceased early morning swim/walks. You cannot walk along the beach without getting accosted or chased by a dog at some point; or a dog charging at you as their owner/s lag behind 15- 30 feet, or as they congregate with other dog owners while their dogs run freely around the beach and are clearly out of their control. How can dog owners pick up after their dogs, when dogs are running all over the beach--they surely don't trace it down and pick it up, and most don't bother picking it up when it is right in front of them. There are dog feces along the path and beach, where families walk, sit and children play and dig. Dogs should be leashed at all times in public places, and are not in their owners control when they are 10-20-30 feet away and chasing, jumping or nipping at others. Beaches should not be made into a dog park. People owning dogs cannot enjoy the beach without their dogs and walk their dogs in other areas or dog parks designated for that purpose (hopefully leashed) or on their own property This ruling has opened the beach to hundreds of non-residents over the past few years and has made it nearly impossible for residents and their families to peacefully enjoy the beach in the summer during off hours. Maui, HI and New England beaches--(generally do not allow dogs on beaches in the summer season; and times when allowed, dogs must be leashed)--**During the pandemic and their tourist season in Maui**, beaches are mainly closed because rest rooms are closed and they don't want people urinating on the beaches--(why is it okay for dogs to relieve themselves on beaches and along the path first thing in the morning, where people and children later walk and lay on LCB??). This must surely be a health concern in the summer months. LCB is a treasure and should be protected, preserved and treated as such and kept for those to enjoy as a beach; not as a summer playground and litter box for dogs. Rights of people, health and safety issues to use the beach should not be second to dogs.

See: <https://doodycalls.com/blog/toxic-waste/> (Dog waste is an environmental pollutant and harmful to children.)

Last summer, I attempted going back to LCB after 5 pm. You used to be able to walk or swim for an hour or so, but recently, it has become mostly impossible. Most times it is a drive to the beach, only to turn around and drive back home. Parking was available only two-three of those times during the entire summer; one time a police officer was giving out tickets to illegally parked vehicles. The parking lot was filled mostly with cars with out- of-state plates and I suspect non-Vineyard residents; people parked everywhere and anywhere, and this after Labor Day.

I have run out of options and time of day to enjoy the beach when while others who are not taxpayers (the morning dog goers), during the day to renters, whose owners profit by renting their homes, and to other non-taxpayers after 5 PM, Last year this resulted in being able to

park and go to the beach less than a handful of times the entire summer, and as a year round resident, I would hope to have access to the beach in the summer months more regularly.

Taxpayers should be given consideration for parking at LCB and being able to enjoy the beach in the town where they live. The current ruling/suggestions made in the article published in the Vineyard Gazette, Lambert's Cove Beach Stays Open, Parking Reduced by Will Sennott on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 - 12:05 pm does not address past issues or the current situation. Reducing parking will make matters worse. How can the committee decide to issue the same number of parking/beach stickers with the new regulations and parking limitations? Have the P & R committee members, board of health or selectmen tried going to the beach during the past summers? It is important to keep the beach open, but to do so in a reasonable way during pandemic restrictions by eliminating the sale of beach/parking stickers and expanding hours of sticker parking so those who live in the town can access the beach. It is not okay to sell as many beach stickers as you can, knowing full well that there will be more limitations than in the Taxpayers s

Please consider the following for the upcoming pandemic summer and beyond:

~Close the beach to dogs at all times during June - August; and open up space and the hours for people to use swim walk on beach. (this will make beaches cleaner and safer for all.) (No special hours/privileges for dogs, especially during a pandemic summer season.) see; <https://doodycalls.com/blog/toxic-waste/> Dog waste is an environmental pollutant

~Resident stickers issued and provide proof to West Tisbury residents; designated to a limited number of registered car/s at resident address with plate number only, therefore limiting the sale of parking/beach stickers that somehow find their way to non-residents.

~Stop issuing weekly/monthly/daily stickers to renters.(homeowners profit by renting their homes at (other) taxpayers expense that should not be deprived of beaches for a landlord's profit. Landlords, B&B's should be held to the same restrictions as homeowners--to registered vehicles at residence, or issued on a very limited basis.

~Open parking from 9 AM - 7 PM by stickers only, with at least two- attendants present during peak hours allowing for residents to gain access to beach by extending parking/ sticker hours, would open up the space for those to attend beach. Those attending would be spread out over a longer time period 9 AM -7 PM-- (10 hours) rather than 7 hours-10AM-5 PM. (Signs--dogs **not** allowed at anytime **JUNE 15-September 15--**

at least one attendant present in parking area after Labor Day until September 15th.)

~Parking/beach stickers required in parking area and along LCR at all hours..

(Chilmark lets no one other than residents on their beaches, even prior to pandemic)

~ \*Ban parking on except for parking immediately in front and across from existing parking lot areas to reduce number of cars/people on beaches and allowing attendants to easily monitor parked cars.

~Signs posted in advance, \$ fine for violators, police monitor LCR and parking area once prior to 10 am to issue tickets; beach attendant issue tickets during posted beach hours.

(In summary: limit beach/parking stickers sold, extend hours when parking stickers required, ban parking on LCR except for parking immediately in front and across from existing parking area, and ban dogs from beach at all times during June-September, therefore extending hours for summer resident beach goers.)