



## PRESS RELEASE



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### Water Department Searching for ‘Spokesdogs’

PHILADELPHIA — The [Philadelphia Water Department](#) is searching for “spokesdogs” worthy of the title Philly Water’s Best Friend. Dog owners residing in Northern Liberties and Queen Village have until Feb. 15 to make their pooches eligible for the competition’s grand prize, a \$200 gift from a local pet store.

The purpose of the [Philly Water’s Best Friend Spokesdog Competition](#) is to reduce water pollution. Organizers plan to accomplish this by teaching pet owners about the importance of picking up dog waste.

A total of 30 finalists will be chosen next spring by virtue of online voting; 15 from Northern Liberties and 15 from Queen Village. Two winners will then be chosen in June by a panel judging pageants in each neighborhood. Afterward, each winner will have one year to attend three community events where they will hand out bag dispensers and educational tip cards.

“Believe it or not, dog waste is the number-one concern for citizens who express reservations about planting trees or greening their properties,” said Joanne Dahme, general manager of public affairs at the Philadelphia Water Department. “Our goal is to work creatively with riverside communities to reduce this pollution, which results in tainted stormwater runoff flowing into our rivers and streams, by using common-sense solutions, like picking up after your pet.”

Contrary to popular opinion, dog waste is not environmentally friendly, nor is it a fertilizer. Dog waste is a pollutant that spreads whenever rain or melting snow washes it into storm drains. This runoff causes bacteria, parasites and algae to collect in local waterways like the Delaware River. Fortunately, this can be prevented. All owners have to do is flush their dog’s waste down the toilet or discard it in the trash using a biodegradable bag.

To enter your dog in the Philly Water’s Best Friend Spokesdog Competition, please visit [PhillyWatersheds.org/Spokesdog](http://PhillyWatersheds.org/Spokesdog). For more information, call the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) at (800) 445-4935, extension 112.

Sponsors for this program include the [Northern Liberties Neighbors Association](#), Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Philadelphia Water Department, and the [Queen Village Neighbors Association](#). Prizes are being donated by [Chic Petique](#) and [WAG: Whole Animal Gym](#).

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**The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program based in Wilmington, leads collaborative and creative efforts to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary, and its tributaries, for current and future generations. We envision everyone working together to make the Delaware Estuary the most inviting, prosperous and healthy natural resource of its kind in the nation.**