



ATTENTION Dog Guardians. This is an Important Message about Pet Waste

Human Health

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. Leaving pet waste on the ground can expose humans to the bacteria, viruses and parasites often found in pet waste. Children are especially at risk, since they often play on grass, dirt and other surfaces and often put things in their mouths and eyes.

Some of the diseases that can be contracted by coming into direct contact with feces, soil or water that has been contaminated by pet waste include:

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| Heartworms | Campylobacteriosis |
| Corona | Hookworms |
| Giardiasis | Whipworms |
| Salmonellosis | Roundworms |
| Cryptosporidiosis | Tapeworms |

Pet Health

In addition to being a threat to human health, failing to pickup and properly dispose of pet waste can put other pets at risk. Pets are highly susceptible to becoming ill from one another because they are likely to come in contact with each others waste. Worms and Parvo Virus are diseases pets can contract from each other. These diseases can cause illness and fatalities in pets.

Lawn/Grass Health

Dog Poop is NOT Good Fertilizer! Unlike cows, dogs have a protein based diet that makes dog feces very acidic which is not good for grass or soil.

Dog waste can take up to a year to fully decompose also. This can leave your lawn brown and patchy.

Water Resource Health

Rain washes pet waste and the bacteria, viruses and nutrients it contains into storm drains, which flow directly to our streams and our river. When introduced into our waterways, the bacteria, viruses and nutrients can degrade water quality by releasing ammonia and causing excessive plant growth which can reduce the amount of oxygen available for aquatic life. These wastes also contribute to higher e-coli levels in our waterways.

What Can You Do?



- Pickup pet waste.
- Bring a bag with you or walk your dog on a route with a pet waste station.
- Pet waste should be disposed of in trash receptacles or flushed down the toilet (without other debris or the bag if flushed).
- Report concentrated areas of pet waste to the Scott County Human Society at 563.388.6655.

