Stoop and Scoop your Dog’s Poop – Here’s Why

Dog poop – it stinks and it’s unsightly. No one likes to see it much less step in it. But there many other reasons why picking up dog feces (poop) makes life better for all of us.

1. **It spreads disease and parasites.** Many diseases and parasites can be transmitted through dog poop to pets and people such as giardia, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, parvovirus, and Ecoli to name just a few. These organisms can contaminate the soil for years. People, especially children, can become infected when they come in contact with the soil through gardening, playing sports, or walking barefoot. Other animals can become infected by walking in the poop and then licking their feet – but maybe not before bringing it into your house.

2. **It pollutes.** Dog poop is the 3rd highest cause of polluted water. The EPA estimates that dog poop is as toxic as chemical and oil spills. When it rains, the organisms and germs in the poop are carried into the soil and waterways (streams, rivers, lakes, oceans). It also contains nutrients that cause weeds and algae to overgrow in the waterways. This limits the amount of light that gets through the water’s surface resulting in decreased oxygen levels in the water which suffocates fish. The overgrowth can also interfere with the beauty and recreational use of waterways.

3. **It draws flies.** Poop attracts flies that eat it and lay their eggs in it. Then the flies come into your home or yard and spread germs wherever they pause – like counters, food, chairs, etc.

4. **It isn’t fertilizer.** Far from it! Dog poop can actually cause burns and discoloring of lawns. Leaving dog poop on the ground also encourages other dogs to mark that spot by urinating on it leading to “nitrogen burn.”

5. **It is very slow to break down.** When poop isn’t picked up, it builds up faster than it breaks down multiplying the affect and problems.

6. **It’s tasty – to dogs.** Most dogs will eat poop at some point in their lives. This can be avoided/lessened by picking up poop quickly, especially with younger dogs who are more likely to have this problem.

7. **It’s the number one complaint against dog owners.** More than dog aggression, nuisance barking or unsupervised dogs, dog poop tops the list of complaints about dogs. Every time you don’t pick up your dog’s poop, you are giving others another reason not to like dogs and dog owners.

8. **It’s a good example.** When you pick up after your dog, you are part of the solution! You help send the message that this is the right thing to do. And you can do more - carry extra bags to offer to others who might have forgotten to carry their own. Pick up poop left by others so there is less lying around. Then dispose of the poop in a trash can.

9. **It’s the LAW!** It is unlawful not to pick up your dog’s poop and you are subject to a fine if you don’t.

10. **It’s the neighborly and right thing to do.**

If you can’t bring yourself to pick up your dog’s poop, there are ways to make it easier and less messy. Look into pooper scoopers that allow you pick up the poop without having to touch it. The poop still needs to be disposed of, but it may be more tolerable than picking it up. There are companies that will come to your home on a regular basis to pick up your dog’s poop. You still need to pick up the poop that your dog may leave behind on a walk, but it lessens the workload.

Help keep our community clean and dog friendly – pick up your dog’s poop whether is in your yard, in a common area, or in the woods. Everyone will appreciate and benefit from it.