

Being a responsible pet owner means picking up your dog's waste from City Parks and Streets and YES your neighbor's yard.

It's a nice day; you're walking along and all of a sudden--squish. You don't even have to look because you know you've really stepped in it. There's nothing quite like an encounter with a pile of poop to put the kibosh on a good day.

We love pets as much as the next person but pet-owners aren't always as responsible or as green as they should be. Being a responsible, eco-friendly pet-owner means picking up after your dog when they do their business--after all, it helps protect human and animal health and the environment.

Environmental and Health Impact

There are also some pretty important environmental reasons for proper pet waste disposal. If left on the ground, your dog's excrement--including bacteria, viruses and other microbes--will usually end up in the water table. A heavy rainstorm and spring run-off can easily carry dog waste into streams and rivers, and any waste that ends up in storm sewers usually flows directly into a body of water without being treated.

Your pet's waste can also cause illness in other animals and in people. Dog excrement contains a long list of bad bugs, including adenovirus, parvovirus, giardia, coccidian, roundworm, and tapeworm.

Other dogs can easily become infected, as can local wildlife; if illness spreads among wildlife, this can have a serious impact on the health of the ecosystem. As with most ailments, kids are more susceptible, and that's a problem because kids spend a lot of time playing close to the ground and they touch their eyes and mouths without a thought to whether their hands are clean.