

Getting the Scoop on Poop



Pooches for the Planet

Q What's worse than picking up dog poop?
A Stepping in it.

Q What's even worse than that?
A Swimming in, fishing in or drinking water that has dog poop in it.

Rainwater can wash those little presents your pooch leaves on the ground into streams and rivers leading to Sarasota Bay, or directly to the bay itself. Just like human waste, **dog poop poses a threat to both public health and water quality.** It contributes harmful bacteria that can make people ill, as well as **excessive nutrients that cause algae blooms and rob the water of oxygen** needed to support fish and other aquatic life.

Join the "Pooches for the Planet" pack and pick up after your dog. It's easy, it's neighborly, and it's the healthy thing to do... for you and for Sarasota Bay.



Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey estimate that pet waste may be responsible for 20 to 30 percent of the harmful bacteria found in America's urban waterways.

Scoop that Poop!

Pooches for the Planet

You can help keep local waterways, parks and your own neighborhood clean by taking the following actions:



Pick up after your pet. Flushing pet waste down the toilet is best, because then it is treated at a sewage treatment plant.



Never put waste into storm drains. They flow into streams or rivers leading to Sarasota Bay, or into the bay directly.



Bag your dog's waste and put it in a trash can if flushing down the toilet is not feasible. Newspaper bags or plastic grocery bags are great for dog poop disposal. Bag dispensers that clip to a leash also are widely available at the pet supply shops.



Spread the word about the harmful impacts of dog poop on our waters to your friends and neighbors, and encourage them to join the "Pooches for the Planet" pack!

**CLEAN YARDS
 CLEAN WATERS
 and clean shoes!**



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