

Do Your DOO Diligence



A Public Service Project by the Town of Boone, N.C.'s Greenway, Parks and Gardens Committee

Q: Do you know what's worse than picking up your dog's poop?

A: Stepping in it, slipping on it, swimming in, fishing in and drinking water that has dog poop in it!

The Real Scoop on Dog Poop

Approximately 5000 tons (that's 10,000,000 pounds) of dog poop is deposited every day in the U.S. When we don't pick up dog poop -- which is basically the same as human waste -- from our sidewalks, greenways and grassy areas, it goes with the rain water run off straight into our streams and rivers, polluting the quality of our drinking water. In fact, dog poop causes as much as 20-30% of water pollution found in our streams.

Unlike cow or horse manure, dog poop is NOT fertilizer. Unlike wild animal poop, deer, rabbits, dog poop does NOT easily biodegrade. Dog poop is actually toxic, containing the same bacteria as human waste.



Waste from dogs can be infected with ring worm, hook worms, tapeworms or Salmonella. One gram of pet waste can contain as many as 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. Eggs from parasites, deposited when your dog does his business, remain in the grass for years after the poop has disintegrated. This puts barefoot walkers, children and gardeners at risk, even in their own yards, and children playing in parks, touching soil or anything else that has been in contact with dog feces, and then touching their mouths, are especially at risk of being infected with ringworm larvae. Once ingested, ringworm larvae can migrate through the body, causing diseases in the brain, lungs, liver, heart and eyes.

Twenty years ago, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classified pet waste as a dangerous pollutant in the same category as toxic chemicals and oil.



Read More Facts About Dog Waste ➔ www.pooyah.com/facts-about-dog-waste/

How To Do YOUR Doo Diligence

If we all do our doo diligence and pick up after our dogs, we can keep the waste to a minimum and maintain the health of our parks and public green spaces. All along the Boone Greenway, in various town parks, and in strategic spots near downtown Boone, the Town has provided convenient stations stocked with doggie poo bags and a receptacle for depositing the poo.



If you're not comfortable using a poop bag, then try a long handled pooper scooper sold at pet stores. Or, try one of these **"4 Ways to Pick Up Dog Poop"** ➔ www.wikihow.com/Pick-Up-Dog-Poop

Other communities in this country as well as numerous countries in Europe have been addressing dog waste since 2000. Programs range from educational campaigns to poop bag and drop baskets to volunteer committees picking up poop and even matching DNA samples to find the guilty dog owner.



The Do Your Doo Diligence Subcommittee was created out of one dog-lover's concerns about dog poop on the Boone Greenway. Part of the Town of Boone Greenway, Parks and Gardens Committee, the mission of the DYDD subcommittee is to inspire, educate and motivate citizens to pick up after their dogs.

Working with the Town of Boone, the group's initial plan has included increasing the number of poop stations, developing signs, and creating and distributing educational materials throughout the Town of Boone.

The current members of the Do Your Doo Diligence Subcommittee are Judith Phoenix, Jamie Goodman and Mike Boone.



Catching Poop Offenders

Last, but not least, if you come across someone who won't pick up their dog's poop, take a moment to politely educate them! Explain to them how unhygienic dog poop is and how it carries disease, and how uncollected poop contributes to polluting the entire neighborhood as well as possibly leading to bans on where dogs can go.



Remember, there is no such thing as a "Poop Fairy"! Please pick up after your dog and ask your friends to do so, too.

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