



Picking Up After Your Dog

The City of Denver loves dogs, but what we don't love is when owners don't take responsibility in cleaning up after them. It begs the question: why do we have to? Here are 10 reasons to pick up after your pet:

1. In Denver, it's the law. (First time for violation to pick up your dog's excrement is a fine of \$125.) See Denver Revised Municipal Code 8-47:
"It shall be unlawful for anyone who possesses, harbors, or is in charge of any dog, cat or other animal not to immediately remove excrement deposited by the animal upon a common thoroughfare, street, sidewalk, play area, park, or upon any private property when permission of the owner or tenant of the property has not been obtained, and such is hereby deemed to be a public nuisance and prohibited. Dog, cat or other animal excrement shall not be placed in storm sewers, but may be placed in trash containers if contained in a closed plastic bag or other closed or airtight nonporous container."
2. It's your responsibility as the dog's owner. No one else will come by and magically pick up after your dog. It's your duty as a pet owner, so please clean up after him/her.
3. Dog excrement may contain harmful organisms such as Giardia, Parvovirus, Salmonella, and E. coli that can be transmitted to humans and other animals by ingesting contaminated water.
4. Heartworms, whipworms, tapeworms, roundworm, and hookworms can all be present in infected animals' excrement. It can live in the soil for long periods of time and be transmitted to both humans and animals. Don't think this is affecting you? The Centers for Disease Control recently discovered that 14% of Americans tested positive for roundworms.
5. Picking up after your pets right away reduces odors (especially in the summer heat).
6. Dog excrement actually degrades slowly compared to what people may think. It will eventually break down, but it's a long process, and abandoned dog excrement tends to accumulate much faster than it takes to break down.
7. Dog excrement is not a fertilizer. Dog excrement actually impedes landscaping efforts. In fact, leaving dog poop only encourages other dogs to also mark that spot. Also, poop contributes to the nitrogen burn problem on grass.
8. We all deserve to live in a city that we can be proud of, which means a city clean of your animal's excrement.
9. Dog excrement makes dog owners look bad. Would you think highly of people who didn't pick up after their pets?
10. Stepping in dog excrement is both unpleasant and unsanitary.

