

# Help Reduce Pollution From Dog Waste

## We need your help!

Pima County is working with local residents to promote proper pick-up and disposal of pet waste. The amount of dog waste left on the sidewalks, trails, in parks, and along washes concerns residents and local officials. The messes are smelly, unhealthy nuisances that often someone other than the dog owner has to remove.

**While many dog owners are responsible, it's time to make sure that all pet waste is properly managed for the good health and benefit of everyone.**

## Why is pet waste a problem?

- ◆ Untreated fecal matter can be a source of harmful bacteria and nutrients.
- ◆ Pet waste carries disease causing organisms such as E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, and Salmonella.
- ◆ **Leaving pet waste on the ground, especially in public areas like roadways, parks, trails, washes, and playing fields, may pose a disease risk to children, adults, and other pets.**
- ◆ Rain or water run-off may carry the waste to other areas.

**Let's work together to keep dog waste out of our washes, neighborhoods, and recreational areas.**

## Do your part: scoop the poop!

Scooping your pooch's poop isn't just a courtesy for those walking behind you; it's the healthy and environmentally sound thing to do. People may not pick up after their dog because they think it's gross or they're not sure how to dispose of the waste. Picking up after your dog is easy and it's the law!\*

## Reasons for picking up pet waste:

- ◆ It's the law\*
- ◆ Environmental reasons
- ◆ Hygiene/health reasons
- ◆ Neighborhood courtesy
- ◆ It's the right thing to do
- ◆ Keeps the trail clean

## Here are some easy steps for dealing with your pet's waste:

1. **Always carry a plastic bag** when you walk your dog. Re-using an old newspaper delivery bag or plastic grocery bag works well. To avoid unpleasant surprises, check the bag for holes before your pet's walk!
2. Use the bag as a glove to pick up the pet waste. Turn the bag inside out around the waste; scoop it up, seal the bag, and **dispose of it in a trash can.**
3. **Don't place bagged or un-bagged pet waste in a storm drain** or hose pet waste towards the street.
4. Don't compost pet waste. Compost piles may not get hot enough to kill disease-causing organisms.
5. Remove waste from areas where children play or you garden.
6. **Wash your hands** with warm, soapy water after dealing with pet waste!



\*Pima County Code: **Yes, It's the law.**

**NOTE: Relevant sections of the Pima County Code are noted below:**

### **7.29.030 Responsibility for storage and disposal of solid waste**

**A.** Any person generating, producing, storing or transporting or any person who has received any solid waste shall be responsible for the proper storage, removal, transport and disposal of that solid waste. Solid waste, while being transported, shall be covered, tied or otherwise secured so waste will not be blown or dropped from the transport vehicle.

**C.** In addition to other persons who may be responsible pursuant to this section, a person generating solid waste is responsible for the lawful storage, removal, transport and disposal of that solid waste until it is lawfully deposited in an approved site or collected by a permitted contractor.

### **7.45.020 Environmental nuisances.**

The director may take action under this section to abate environmental nuisances. As used in this section, an environmental nuisance is the creation or maintenance of a condition in the soil, air or water that causes harm to the public health or the environment and that is not otherwise subject to regulation under A.R.S. Title 49. Subject to this limitation, the following conditions may constitute environmental nuisances:

- ◆ A condition or place in populous areas which constitutes a breeding place for flies, rodents, mosquitoes and other insects which are capable of carrying and transmitting disease-causing organisms to any person.
- ◆ Sewage, human excreta, wastewater, garbage or other organic wastes deposited, stored, discharged or exposed so as to be a potential instrument or medium in the transmission of disease to or between any person or persons.



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