



No, it is not a joke. It is important. There are a lot of dogs in Memphis. If you consider the number of dogs and consider that the average dog produces approximately 3/4 pounds of poop every day...that's a lot of poop!

That poop, unlike ours, does not get flushed down a toilet and treated at a wastewater treatment facility.

If the owners do not pick it up and throw it away, it sits there. And what is the harm in that- you ask? Poop is natural. It is fertilizer, isn't it? No. It is not. Read below for eye opening facts on why pet owners should 'Scoop the Poop'!



In 1878, before the establishment of the sanitary sewer system, Memphis had approximately 40,000 citizens whose waste was not disposed of properly. The waste sat where they put it and during rain events, it was carried to one of the many surrounding waterways. That same year, 5,150 of Memphis' citizens fell victim to the yellow fever epidemic, a disease transmitted to the citizens by mosquitos that made the unsanitary waters their home. Point being- we aren't talking about ONE pet fecal deposit. We are talking about A LARGE COLLECTIVE amount. And historically, LARGE COLLECTIVE amounts of improperly disposed waste comes back to bite us.

Cows and other animals that only eat grass and vegetation have waste that can be used as fertilizer in gardens. Dogs do not. Dog waste has a lot of nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients that negatively affect our waters and aquatic life). It also has a higher phosphorous concentration than cow and swine manure. Phosphorus also has a negative impact on our water and the plants. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites. Dog feces can contain fecal coliform bacteria (ECOLI), which can spread diseases like Giardia, Salmonella, and Campylobacter, causing serious illness in humans. It can contain roundworm and hookworms that can be carried to rivers and streams through storm water runoff and be transmitted to humans.



The City of Memphis Storm Water Program wants to remind citizens that improperly disposed pet waste is a storm water violation and leaving pet waste behind on public property is against the law by Ordinance 4538. When you walk your dog, you are required to pick up after it. The City of Memphis Storm Water Program provides promotional materials to encourage proper pet waste disposal. You can call 636-6721 or email stormwater@memphistn.gov to request a Pick-Up bag dispenser to pick up after your pet or a Patty the Puppy yard sign to encourage others to dispose of their pet waste properly.