

VBSPCA

THE INSIDE SCOOP WHY PET CLEANUP MATTERS

While there are many pleasant parts of being a pet parent, cleaning up after them isn't exactly one of them. However, picking up after your dog is extremely important! It doesn't matter if your pup relieves themselves in your backyard or while on a walk: you should always pick up the poop.



It's a Pollutant

When pet waste gets into our waterways, it breaks down and causes excessive algae and weed growth. That can make waterways unsuitable for swimming, fishing, and other recreational uses.



It's Neighborly

Not cleaning up after your pet is disrespectful to the community and to the environment, so please be mindful of the shared spaces and leave them how you found them... absent of your pup's poop.



It's the Law

You are required by law to pick up after your pet in public places in Virginia (as well as many other states and localities).



It Transmits Disease

Dog excrement can transmit parasites, bacteria, and viruses to the soil or water, which can then be passed on to people and other pets.

Problematic Parasites

- WORMS*
- COCCIDIA*
- GIARDIA*

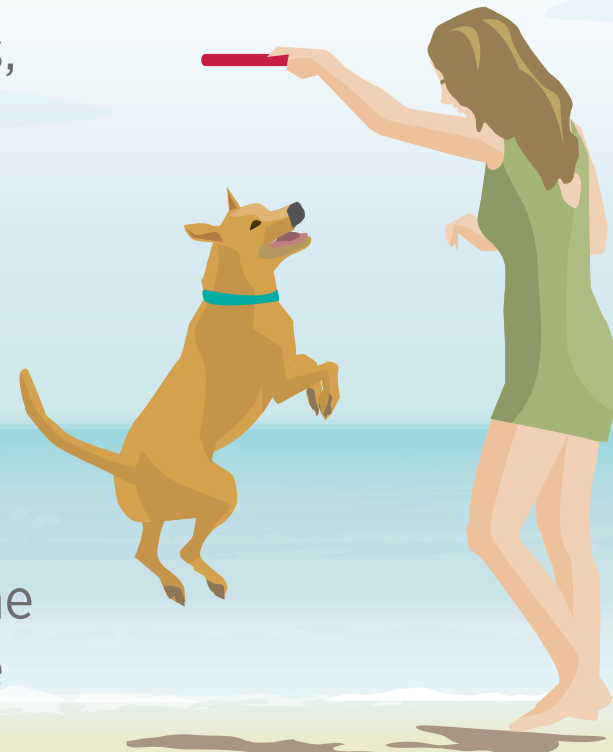
Bad Bacteria

- SALMONELLA*
- E.COLI*
- CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS*

Serious Sicknesses

- PARVOVIRUS
- CANINE CORONAVIRUS

* Conditions that can be transferred from canines to humans. Children, seniors, babies, and pregnant women are at higher risk.



The bottom line: be sure to bring along a bag so you can clean up on your walk and set aside time to scoop the poop from your backyard! To learn more visit, vbस्पca.com/pet-care-resources.