Why are we telling you about the “Scoop the Poop” campaign?

Scoop the poop, Bag it, Place it in the trash

We’d like YOU to share this message with dog owners

Scoop the Poop, Bag it, Place it in the trash

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Scoop the Poop
Healthy pets
Healthy kids
Clean yards
Clean shoes!

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Scoop the Poop

Healthy pets - regular backyard scooping prevents reinvestation of worms & other parasites.

Healthy kids - humans can be invested with the same worms and parasites.

Clean yards

Clean shoes! - who wants poop tracked into the house?!!

Note that there’s NO mention of water quality. For dog owners, WQ, as a motivator to scoop poop in their backyard, is way, way down their list.

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Dogs don’t have thumbs ...

So their humans are responsible for dental care & scooping the poop
When you take the Poop Toss game to an event:

Share the “Scoop The Poop” Message:
- Chat w/ owners abt the **health risks** to family members (4-legged & 2-legged!)
- Give away
  - “We Scoop” stickers for garbage cans
  - bone-shaped **bag dispensers**
- Share **Dog Doogity video**:
  www.ScoopPoop.org

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Background Info for Cast Members who go out with the Poop Toss Game

Don’t worry about sharing the following with the public.
This is not of interest to the average dog owner.
Knowing the following will not motivate them to scoop the poop in their backyard more often.

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Meet the worms, bacteria, and parasites

Here’s what dog owners want to avoid:

• Round Worms
• Cryptosporidium
• Campylobacter
• E. Coli
• Hookworms
• Giardia

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Roundworm eggs

CDC reports 10,000 human cases annually in the United States.

Survival outside a host can exceed 6 months - up to 4 years in soil.
Cryptosporidium cysts

CDC estimates 300,000 human cases annually in the US, 90% of waterborne origin.

Survival outside a host can exceed 6 months.
Campylobacter jejuni

Campylobacter is one of the most common bacterial causes of diarrheal illness in the United States.

Each year there are about 15 cases for every 100,000 persons.
Escherichia coli

Can survive up to four months in feces.

One strain, O157:H7, causes an estimated 73,000 human cases of infection, and 61 deaths in the United States annually.

Most cases are associated with contaminated food, however infection can occur after swimming in or drinking contaminated surface water.
Hookworm egg & larva

Can survive outside host 3-4 weeks in larval stage.

Puppies are a significant source of infection.

Prompt removal of dog and cat feces greatly reduces risk of human infection.
Giardia lamblia cysts

CDC estimates 2 million human cases annually in the US, 90% of waterborne origin.

Survival outside is indeterminate.

Resistant to drying, chlorination, and temperature extremes.

Can survive for months in water.

Image: H.D.A. Lindquist, U.S. EPA
37.2% of Washington households have dogs

American Veterinary Medical Association 2007 data

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1.7 dogs per dog-owning household in Washington

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American Veterinary Medical Association 2007 data
**Estimated Countywide Dog Population**

274,360  Snohomish County households

0.372  Households with dogs

\[ \times 1.7 \]  Dogs per dog-owning household

173,500  Dogs in Snohomish County

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1/  2010 US Census data
Estimated Waste Production

Human population of Everett + Edmonds + Mukilteo is 165,000

173,500 Dogs

if ¼ pound/day/dog ... 43,000+ pounds/day

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This is why our program focuses on scooping in the **BACKYARD**

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How Many Owner Pick Up the Poop?

- 17% Don’t pick up at all
- 43% of owners bury, compost, or pick up less than weekly
- 42% of owners pick up weekly and dispose in the trash

Snohomish County Public Works 2004 Data

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Rain & Water Pollution

Everett gets about 36 inches of rain per year.

Each ¼-acre lot receives more than 240,000 gallons of runoff per year.

Yikes!

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It goes into stormdrains, flows through underground culverts, and ends up in the nearest stream.

Runoff from lawns & roads is NOT treated.

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Because of high fecal coliform levels, stream areas are:

Not suitable for swimming or wading

Not suitable for swimming
He can’t see the fecal coliform bacteria, but levels are high in all urban streams.
Designing “Scoop the Poop” Campaign

1. SnoCo SWM reviewed pet waste programs from 50+ jurisdictions
2. Reviewed pet waste management research
3. Inventoried 204 pet oriented businesses
4. Inventoried pet waste cleanup and disposal products
5. Inventoried off-leash areas
6. Conducted focus group interviews of County residents
7. Conducted a public opinion survey of County residents
8. Analyzed Snohomish County’s pet and human demographics
9. Evaluated demographic and water quality monitoring data to identify problem areas

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Citizens might ask about Traditional Disposal Recommendations:

- Flush waste down the toilet
- Bury the waste
- Composting
- Bag the waste and place it in the trash

Here are some answers

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Flushing:

- Overloads septic systems
- Is not practical
- Is not a good general recommendation

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Burying Waste & Digesters:

- Allows pathogens and excess nutrients into streams
- Allows long-lasting bacteria and parasites to establish in soils
- Burying and digesters area a lot of extra work

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Composting:

- Residential yard waste compost piles don’t get hot enough to kill harmful organisms
- The commercial composting operations don’t want pet waste - it contaminates their compost

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The Best Recommendation:

- Flush the waste down the toilet
- Bury the waste
- Use digesters or composting devices
- Bag the waste and place it in the trash

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Wait a minute …
Shouldn’t we reduce what goes into landfills?

Some things are meant to be landfilled. Poop is on that list.
Those who worry about their amount of garbage that can reduce in other areas.

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Should I use bags made out of Biodegradable or Regular plastic?

Trick question!

Use bags with lots of **recycled plastic**
(once in a landfill, neither biodegradable nor regular plastic degrades)

Scoop the Poop, Bag it, Place it in the trash
Landfills keep pet waste contained, monitored ...

... and out of our streams.
But isn’t it illegal to throw pet waste in the trash?

• It’s legal in every city in Puget Sound (except Anacortes)

• Waste haulers don’t care (we actually asked them)