



Frequently Asked Questions

All pup pawrents can “doo” the right thing by learning more about how to reduce their pooch’s carbon pawprint!

Is picking up after your dog really the law?

Yes - when we said it’s your doody to pick up after your pup, we meant it! Take a look of some of Columbus’s ordinances that specifically prohibit pet owners from not scooping up their dog’s poop:

- Section 902.01 of Columbus’s city ordinance prohibits leaving pet waste in or near streams or watercourses, on private property not owned by the pet owner, or on public property. A violation is a third-degree misdemeanor with up to a \$500 fine and/or 60 days imprisonment.
- Section 919.16 of Columbus’s city ordinance prohibits placement of waste, specifically including a pet owner failing to clean up pet poop, on park property such as reservoir property and waterways. Violation is a minor misdemeanor with up to a \$100 fine.
- Section 1111.01 prohibits a person from causing or permitting animal excrement from draining or flowing to a water supply source or to any watercourse tributary to a water supply source.
- Section 1145.86 of Columbus’s city ordinance prohibits the discharge of anything other than storm water into City storm sewers, and as we know, discharges of storm water containing pet waste to the City’s storm sewers can occur if pet waste is not picked up. A violator may be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each violation.

How do you know what the water quality issues are really from pet waste and not something else?

Pet waste significantly contributes to nutrient and bacteria pollution in urban waterways. Commercial dog food adds nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus to dog waste, leading to harmful algae blooms that deplete oxygen and threaten aquatic life. In contrast, wild animals’ waste effectively recycles appropriate nutrients back into the ecosystem, supporting overall plant and wildlife health.

How should we pick up after our dogs if they have loose stool?

It can be a good idea to carry paper towels on walks if your dog has loose stool. Use a plastic bag as a glove to soak up the mess with a paper towel, then tie it up in the bag and dispose of it properly.

How should we pick up after our dogs in inclement weather?

During summer heatwaves, use baking soda in poop bags to mask odors. In heavy rain, carry paper towels to absorb runoff from dog waste. On snowy days, consider using a poop scooper to avoid freezing your hands while cleaning up after your dog.

