

# Waukesha COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND LAND USE

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## For Immediate Release

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### Do Your Doody—Pick up Pet Waste

We've all seen it—maybe we've even done it ourselves. You know—take the dog for a walk and let them go to the bathroom while you're out—and leave it there. While there are many responsible pet owners, studies tell us that about 35% of dog owners simply refuse to pick up after their pets. Aside from being unsightly and messy if you step in it—what's the problem? Salmonella. Giardia. Cryptosporidium. Coliform bacteria (23 million bacteria per gram of waste). These can all be found in pet waste. When it rains or when the snow melts, water that has come in contact with pet waste becomes contaminated and washes into our rivers and lakes.

“It's just some dogs—how much of a problem could it really be?” we might ask. Let's look at the numbers. Waukesha County Humane Officers estimate there are 110,000 dogs in Waukesha County. On average, each dog produces about  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound of waste per day. That's an average of 82,500 pounds of dog waste per day and a whopping 30 million pounds per year! If 35% of pet owners are not picking up after their pets, that results in about 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds of pet waste available to pollute our waters in our County. That's a lot of bacteria, parasites and nutrients reaching our waterways.

So do your doody. Picking up after your pet is a very simple step to take to help protect our rivers and streams. We can have clean water—One Step at a Time.



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