When Nature calls, be sure to pick up!

Be a responsible pet owner.

Always bring baggies for your pet, and carry an extra for a pet in need. And when available, use a pet waste station provided by local communities and parks.

Your dog and kids will love you for it!

Pet Waste May Affect Your Health

Pet wastes contain bacteria and pathogens that can spread diseases between pets, as well as to humans. The most at-risk groups are children playing outside and adults working in their gardens and/or flower beds.

Some of the diseases that can be spread through pet waste are:

- **Campylobacteriosis**: a bacterial infection causing diarrhea in humans
- **Giardiasis**: a protozoan infection causing diarrhea, cramping, fatigue, and weight loss
- **Salmonellosis**: a bacterial infection causing fever, muscle aches, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea
- **Toxocariasis**: a parasitic infection causing cough, fever, vision loss, and rash

Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash!

Idaho Rural Water Association

6065 West Corporal Lane
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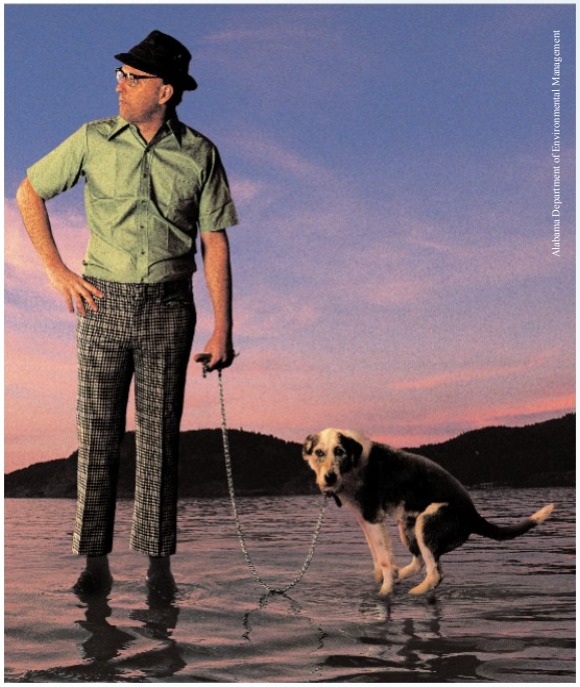
Phone: 208-343-7001
www.idahoruralwater.com

If you have a dog, its your Doodie



When your dog goes on the lawn, remember it doesn't just go on the lawn.

It stinks and is easy to step on. But you just can't make yourself pick it up.

It also pollutes the environment.

So here is how it works. You take the dog out for a walk and it poops on the grass. That poop contains bacteria and viruses, and is now a health risk to people and other pets. When it rains or storms, the poop is carried with surface water into storm drains or canals, and eventually enters our streams, rivers and lakes where people may come into contact with it.

Fecal coliform bacteria machine

http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/domestic-dogs/#/paula-willard-houndog_5849_600x450.jpg

How can you not love them? Dogs bring great joy into our family's lives. But impacts to surface water associated with dog poop can be serious. They include:

- Increased loading of nitrogen and phosphorus that can lead to increased weed and algal growth in the river
- Increased organic matter which when it decays, can reduce oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic animals
- Increased loading of bacteria and pathogens that can people and other pets sick

One pound of dog poop can contain 10,000,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria.

Yep, 10 billion!

So What Should You Do About It?

As a pet owner you have several options that will protect water quality as well as the health of people and pets throughout our community and watershed.

- Waste can be disposed of by securing the waste in a bag and throwing the bag in the trash. Biodegradable bags can be purchased.
- Waste can be disposed of by flushing it down the toilet (if you are served by a sanitary sewer utility) where it will be treated just as waste from your home is. Just don't flush the bag!
- Pet waste is not fertilizer and should never be used in your flower beds, vegetable garden or compost pile.
- Hire a contract service to do the dirty work for you. A simple website search will provide companies that offer such services within the area.

Please don't leave pet waste near a curb. Not only is it bad manners, it can be washed down storm drains and into our waterways.