

# Pet Responsibility

## Key Point: Pick up your pet's poop

Many of us have the enjoyment of owning a pet or pets (specifically dogs). With that enjoyment comes responsibility when taking our dog(s) for walks within the community.

This is a reminder to please be mindful of where your dog(s) relieve themselves during the walk. Please refrain from having your dog urinate on your neighbors' lawn. Our bluegrass variety of turf is very susceptible to burning from dog urine and it's extremely hard to re-grow the affected area without replacing the turf. Please utilize the common areas for this action.

In regards to the common areas, it is important that you always clean up after your dog using your own refuse bag or one along either the West or East side of the community walkways.

Please ensure you dispose of your dog's waste in a trash can and don't leave the bag lying along the sidewalk.

Let's keep our community clean and healthy for all of our neighbors!

## The Myth of the Poop Fairy

Like the Loch Ness monster or Bigfoot, the fabled poop fairy has been the stuff of legend. Flying undetected in parks, neighborhoods and schoolyards, she was said to follow close behind dogs and their owners, picking up what the dog left behind before flying off to the next canine creation. A widespread belief that she existed seemed to reassure some that cleaning up after one's dog was optional.

In response to a growing number of poop piles, and a growing number of citizen complaints, the Jefferson County Animal Control office has partnered with local park districts and homeowner associations to bring you this public service announcement:

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## The Facts About Dog Poop

### Dog Poop Doesn't Biodegrade Like Wild Animal Poop

Because we feed our dogs food that's different from the food wild animals eat, dog waste does not biodegrade quickly like wild animal waste. And due to the large number of pets in suburban neighborhoods and local parks, this hardy dog waste accumulates.

### Dog Poop Contains Harmful Bacteria, Parasites

Dog waste can contain harmful organisms like E. coli, Giardia, Salmonella, roundworms, hookworms, and Cryptosporidium. These can be passed on to you or your pet and may cause health problems.

### Dog Waste Pollutes Groundwater, Water Bodies



Bacteria in dog waste can harm water quality in creeks and rivers and alter the ecosystems of these stream corridors. Humans who come in contact with creek water can also face health hazards.

**LAKESWOOD MUNICIPAL CODES [MUNICIPAL CODE](#)**

*6.03.010 - ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE UNLAWFUL.*

*6.04.015 - DOG LICENSE REQUIRED*

*6.04.016 - DOG LICENSE TAG TO BE DISPLAYED.*

*9.32.130 - DEFECATION BY DOGS:*

It is unlawful for the owner or custodian of any dog which has defecated in any park, parkway, community center, or recreational facility to fail to clean up and remove such excrement or feces.

Animal feces must be cleaned up regularly and must not cause excessive odor. To report a violation, call Code Enforcement at 303-987-7566.

**COUNTY & CITY ORDINANCES REQUIRE CLEANUP**

Jefferson County ordinances\* make “failure to clean up dog feces in public places” a petty offense with a fine of at least \$30. Many local park districts have similar regulations and fines.