

Doggie doo do the right thing

The problem

Dog poo in our streets, parks and on our beaches is smelly, unsightly, and very unpleasant to step in!

Public opinion surveys reveal significant concern about the impact of dog poo

- Around 900,000 dogs in Victoria produce 90 tonnes of dog poo each day!
- Some dog droppings contain harmful bacteria and nutrients. They can be washed through the stormwater system into natural waterways and Port Phillip Bay, which may contribute to excessive *E. coli* pollution readings on beaches following heavy rainfalls.
- *Toxocara Canis* is the roundworm that can be found in the faeces of infected puppies or adult dogs, and can be passed onto humans. Children, people with compromised immune systems and field sports players are most at risk of infection.

Why do something about it?

- Nowadays, it is generally accepted that cleaning up after dogs is part of being a responsible pet owner.
- Most councils require dog owners to remove and dispose of their dog's poo when in public places. Some councils also require dog owners to carry an appropriate receptacle (e.g. bag or scoop) to remove dog poo, whenever they are walking their dog in a public place. You can be fined for not complying.
- Research has shown that the more people experience nuisance issues associated with pets in public places, such as dog poo, the worse their opinion of pet owners overall, and the more they support legislative controls on pet ownership.
- Unremoved dog poo can often be one reason influencing decisions to ban dogs from certain parks or beaches.



How to clean up after your dog

- Cleaning up after your dog is easy. You can use plastic (or biodegradable) bags, trowels or pooper scoopers. Products are available that attach to your dog's leash to store plastic bags for use during walks.
- Keep your bags/pouches/pooper scoop products with your leash, as a reminder to take them with you.
- If using the plastic bag method, simply put your hand inside the bag, pick up the dog poo, turn the bag inside out, then seal. You can tie the bag to your leash or carry it until you get to an appropriate disposal site.
- Disposal methods include council provided dog litter bins, or domestic landfill and waste collection, worm farms or composting units.

For more advice or information

For more information on responsible pet ownership, contact your local council, or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/pets and for more information on litter visit www.litter.vic.gov.au



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