FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Month Day, Year

Contact: Name

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Municipality Name Encourages Residents to Pick Up After their Pets

Insert Town Name officials are reminding residents of their civic “doody” to scoop the poop in public areas and in their yards.

“Pet waste is more than a nuisance. It contains bacteria that can make people sick and pollute our local waterways,” said Town Official. “That’s why we’re asking dog owners to pick up after their pets.”

Keeping pet waste off the ground in public areas helps keep Insert Town Name clean and pleasant for our neighbors, but it also helps the environment. When left on the ground, precipitation and sprinkler runoff can wash pet waste and the bacteria it carries into storm drains. Since most storm sewers discharge directly into rivers, lakes, and streams without undergoing any treatment, runoff polluted with pet waste and other contaminants can impair our surface water resources.   
  
People and dogs that come into contact with this water can also become sick. Just one gram of dog waste can contain as many as 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, and it can spread hookworm, ringworm, tapeworm, and salmonella. Due to their high-protein, highly processed diets, dog waste can contain more bacteria and pathogens by weight than that of cows!   
  
Dog owners should carry a bag (preferably biodegradable) on walks to scoop and dispose of in the trash or a pet waste station. At home, be sure to frequently scoop – especially before rain – or hire a pet waste removal company to clean it up on a routine basis.

“There are many threats to our water quality, but picking up after our pets is one simple way we can do our part and reduce stormwater pollution,” said Town Official. “It also keeps Town Name parks and trails clean!”

Insert Town Name is partnering with our neighbors at the Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management to stop pollutants like pet waste from entering our waterways. Learn more about our joint efforts at [www.MyWatersheds.org](http://www.MyWatersheds.org).

For more information on Insert Town Name stormwater management plan, visit Insert Town website.

