

## The Poop Scoop

Every responsible dog owner agrees... picking up after your dog is a MUST. No matter where or when it occurs, there is NO excuse for not scooping the poop. So here are 10 reasons why EVERY dog owner MUST be responsible for picking up EVERY TIME.

**1. It's the law.** Just like littering, it's unlawful NOT to pick up after your dog. The Town of Topsail Beach has an ordinance which authorizes fines against people who do not pick up after their dogs on either public property or private property that is not their own.

**2. It's common courtesy.** Cleaning up after your dogs shows respect for others in our community. Only irresponsible dog owners leave their dog's poop where it falls for others to have to look at, step in, or clean up after. Leaving dog poop also encourages other dogs to mark that spot, so one poop can often turn into two or more in the same spot!

**3. Dog Poop is unhealthy.** Abandoned dog poop can host diseases and/or parasites which can infect other dogs or animals that come into contact with it, or can be transmitted to people who accidentally step in it. Disposing of dog poop immediately helps all dogs in Topsail Beach stay healthier, and reduces public concern about feces-borne illnesses.

**4. Dog Poop is unsightly.** Everybody knows that... it's disgusting. Pick it up. We all deserve to live in a clean town where we can be proud and step lightly.

**5. Dog Poop tops the list of complaints against dogs.** More than dog aggression, nuisance barking, or unsupervised dogs, most complaints are about people not cleaning up after their dogs. This is true for the beach, sides of roadways, and especially, your neighbors' lawns.

**6. Dog Poop bio degrades slowly.** Some people think it's okay to leave dog poop because it will break down naturally. However, the biodegrading process is very slow, and, especially on the beach where dog owners share the space with the rest of the community, abandoned dog poop can accumulate faster than it breaks down. In cold weather, poop can remain where you left it for several weeks to several months.

**7. Dog Poop pollutes the water.** We are fortunate to live near the ocean and the marsh, but it is important for us to realize that dog feces, like any feces, contains high levels of nutrients, which actually pollute the water. Dog Poop left on the beach within the tidal range, in an area that drains to the Intracoastal Waterway, or any place where rain runs into storm drainage areas, eventually spills out to the marsh or the sea. So, from an environmental perspective, it's simply irresponsible.

**8. Dogs make a lot of poop!** There are lots of dogs in Topsail Beach, and each one poops once or twice a day. Talk about making a mountain out of a molehill. The number of dog-owning households is on the rise, and visitors love to bring their dogs to our kind of environment, so it's more important now than ever before that we all get in the habit of being responsible for picking up EVERY TIME.

**9. Dog Poop destroys our reputation.** Dog Poop is the number one reason for negative public sentiment against dogs. Every time you don't pick up after your dog, you are giving one more reason for others to dislike dogs and dog owners.

**10. Your actions set an example for others.** When you pick up after your dog, you are part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. And your actions will help foster the sentiment that it's the right thing to do. Many people even carry extra bags to offer as a subtle and neighborly hint to those who might not otherwise be inclined to do the right thing.

*It's up to each of us to do our part in keeping Topsail Beach clean and poop free. Spread the word that:*

***Poop Destroys Our Good Reputation as Responsible Dog Owners!***