



FACT SHEET

It's important to properly dispose of dog poop. These are some facts regarding the health and wellness risks involved in abandoning pet waste:

- Dog poop is classified as a “non-point source of pollution.”
- If left on the ground, dog poop can infect surface water and groundwater.
- Dog poop contains parasites such as hookworms, roundworms, and tapeworms.
- Parasites found in dog poop present an even greater risk to children.
- Parasite eggs can live in the ground for years.
- Cities across the country, including New York and San Francisco, have enacted pooper-scooper fines.

Throwing dog poop in the trash is not an ideal solution. Here are some facts and statistics regarding the impact of animal fecal matter on the landfill:

- The average person in the US generates about four pounds of solid trash per day.
- At that rate, the United States generates 210 million tons of trash per year.
- There are an estimated 44.8 million dogs in the United States.
- In a city of 100,000 people or 43 square miles, dogs can generate about two and a half tons of feces per day. That's almost two million pounds a year.
- A plastic bag can take up to 1000 years to decompose in the landfill.

Water-soluble doodie bags are a convenient and environmentally friendly alternative for pet waste disposal. Here are the facts on Flush Puppies:

- Flush Puppies bags are made of PVA film, a water-soluble material that dissolves in less than a minute.
- Flush Puppies can be disposed of in any standard toilet, saving them from ever hitting the landfill.
- Water from the toilet goes through a sewage treatment plant, specifically designed to remove harmful toxins from fecal matter.
- Flush Puppies are 100 percent biodegradable, so they're an environmentally conscious solution even when thrown in the trash.

Sources

1. Environmental Protection Agency. (taken from EPA's Polluted brochure, 1994). What is nonpoint source pollution, from www.epa.gov/nps/qa.html.
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3. Washington State Department of Ecology. (February 4, 2004). Pooping pets pose pollution predicament, from www.ecy.wa.gov.
4. Freudenrich, Craig, C. Ph.D. How Stuff Works. How Landfills Work, from www.howstuffworks.com
5. Merial. (May 5, 2007). Is Your City in the Dog House, from www.us.merial.com.