



Dog Poop—
What's the
Problem?

2020 Vet Clinic Outreach







The Poop Problem



Fecal coliform bacteria machine



Fecal coliform bacteria machine

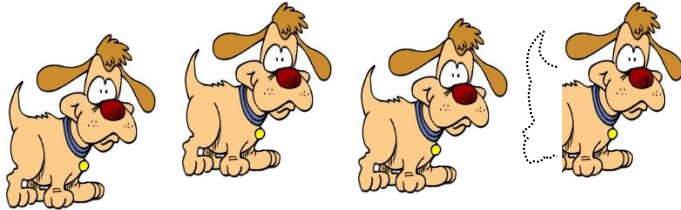


Pet waste
pollutes!

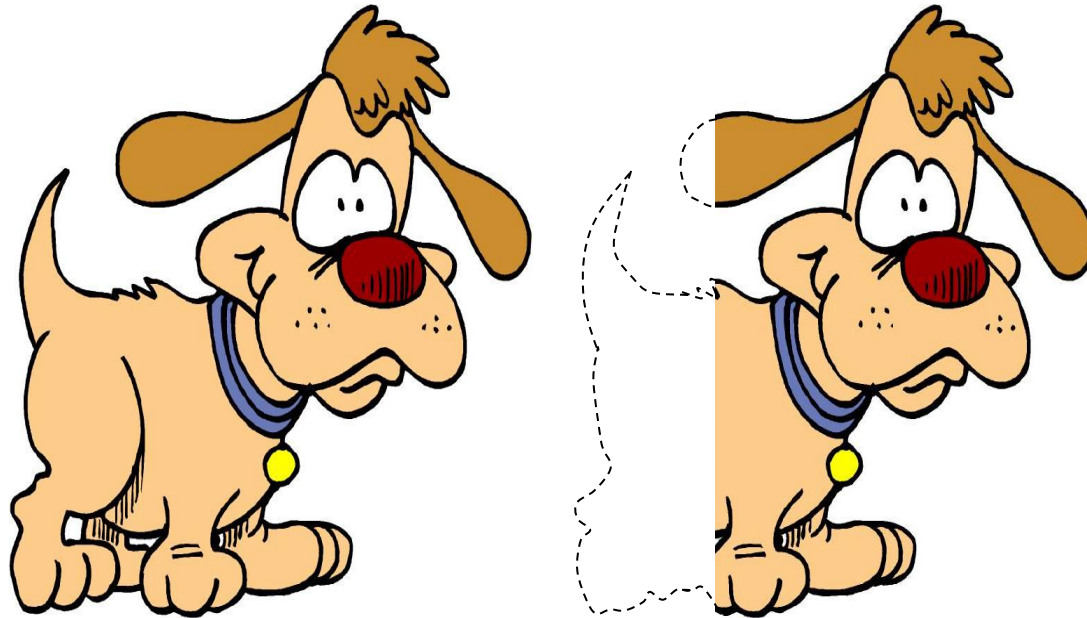
36.5% of Washington households have dogs



American Veterinary Medical Association 2012 data



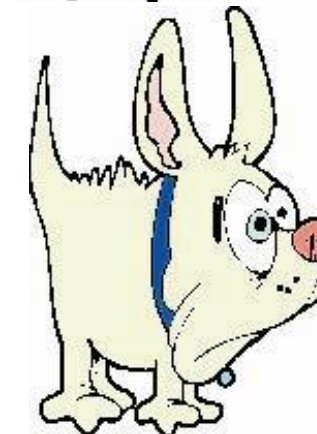
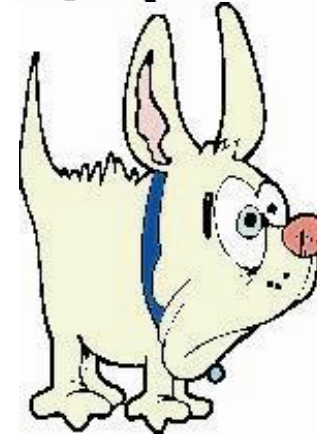
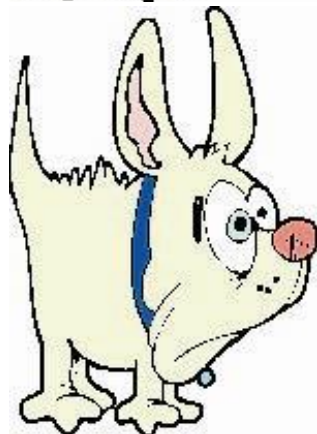
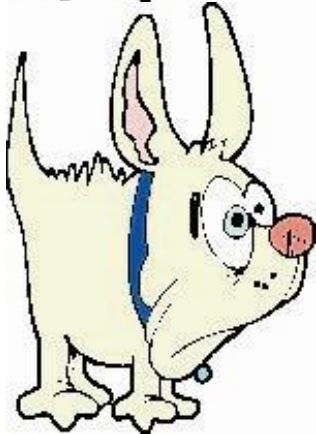
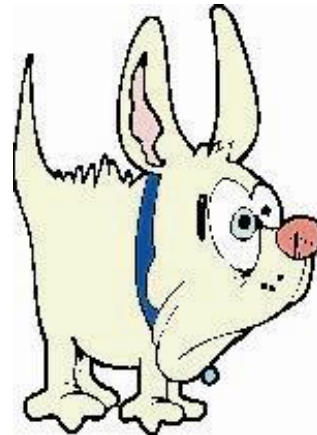
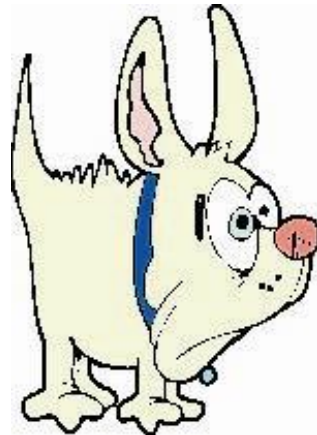
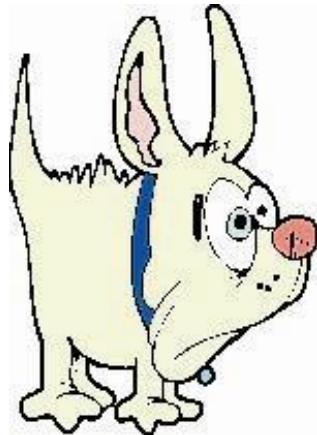
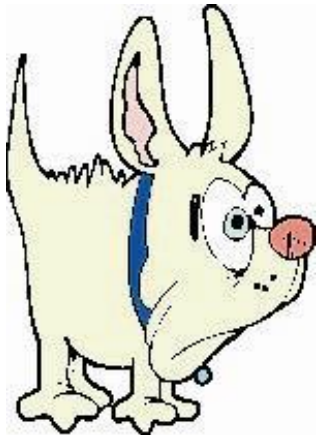
1.6 dogs per dog-owning household in Washington



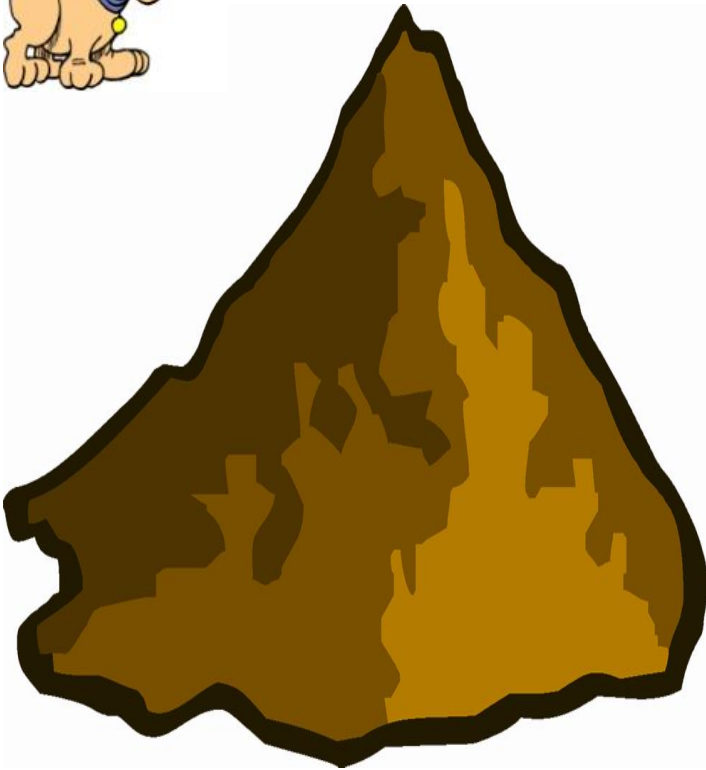
American Veterinary Medical Association 2012 data

Snohomish County

~169,900 Dogs



Snohomish County

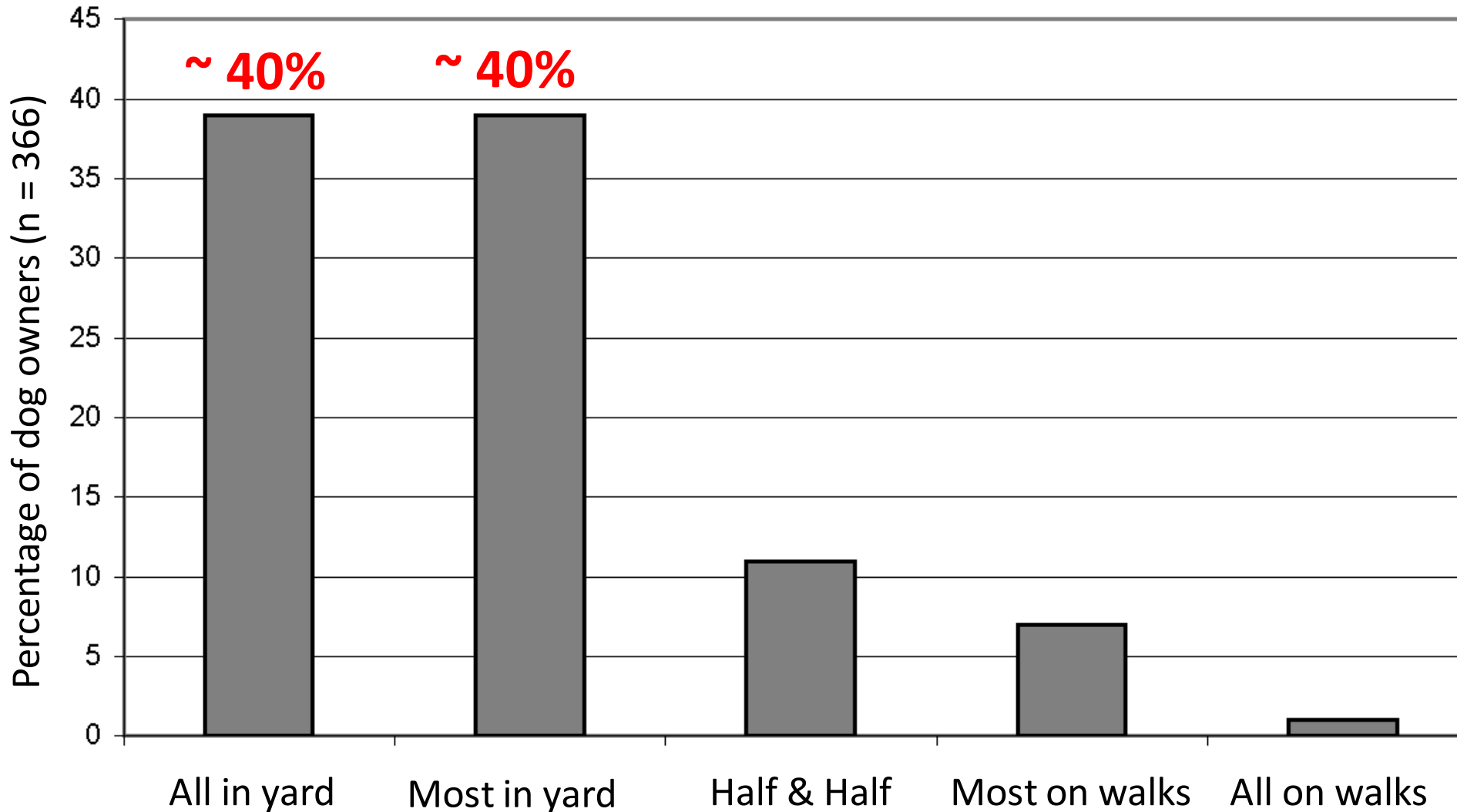


≈

**127,440 lbs.
or 64 tons
of poop every
day!**

Portion of Dog Waste Dropped in Yards & on Walks

Snohomish County Public Works 2004 Data





How Many Owners Pick Up the Poop?

- 17% Don't pick up at all
- 43% of owners bury, compost, or pick up less than weekly
- 42% of owners pick up weekly and dispose in the trash

Snohomish County Public Works 2004 Data

The Poop Solution

**Scoop the poop, bag it,
and put it in the trash.**



Healthy families.

Healthy pets.

Clean shoes.

The Poop Solution

Why focus on water quality?





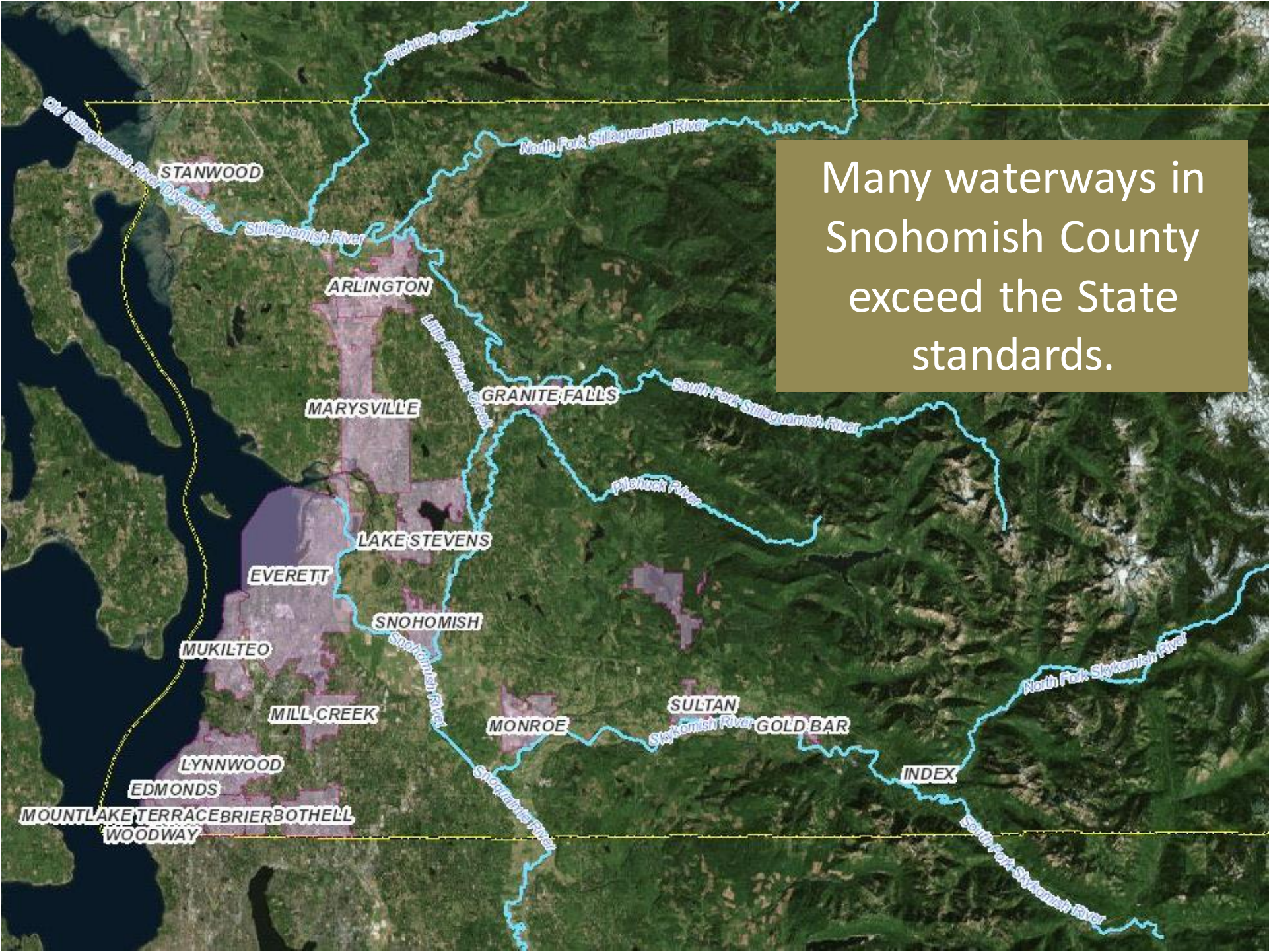


Keeping people safe & waters healthy

All waters in Washington State must meet water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria to protect human health.



Many waterways in
Snohomish County
exceed the State
standards.



2020 Vet Clinic Outreach Program



Partnership
is key to
success



Why partner with vet clinics?



Beach Watcher Roles:



- Kit delivery to clinics
- Key “face-to-face” messenger
- Communicate issues to Beach Watcher Lead and SWM
- Record-keeping

Deliver “Scoop the Poop” Kits to Vet Clinics



Quarterly distribution of appx. 60-75 kits to each vet clinic throughout the year

Assemble materials into “Scoop the Poop” kits



Stickers (front)



Stickers (back)



Bag Dispensers

Informational flier

The Poop Problem

Dog poop spreads diseases to people and pets.

Rain washes poop into ditches and drains that flow into waterways.



When high levels of fecal bacteria are detected, **shellfish beds are closed** to harvesting and waterways become **unsafe for swimming or fishing.**

Puget Sound
Starts Here.org



Snohomish County
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Snohomish County

The Poop Solution

Scoop the poop, bag it, and put it in the trash.

At home, scoop at least weekly, especially before it rains.



Unseen bacterial pathogens can be tracked indoors on **paws, shoes,** and **flies.**

Some pathogens can **survive in your yard** for weeks or **years.**

On walks, bring extra bags, scoop every time, and throw it in the trash.



Be prepared. Always keep **bags** and a **flashlight** on your leash.

Watch closely when dogs are **off leash.** Scoop even in tall brush.

Veterinarians and waste haulers agree:
the trash is the safest place to dispose of pet waste.



Healthy families.

Healthy pets.

Clean shoes.

Northwest Animal Care Hospital
10105 19th Ave SE, Everett, WA 98208
websiteaddress.com
425-379-0400

www.petwaste.surfacewater.info

Flier (front)

Flier (back)

Show the Neighbors!



We Scoop

Scoop the poop, bag it,
and place it in the trash.





Spread the Word!

Scoop the poop,
Bag it, and
Put it in the trash

www.petwaste.surfacewater.info

Program Overview for Vet Clinics

Scoop-the-Poop Program Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your partnership!

Together with Snohomish County and Washington State University (WSU), we are engaging dog owners in reducing pollution.

Why this program?

- **The Poop Problem:** Dog poop is a significant source of bacterial pollution in Snohomish County. Over 170,000 dogs produce 64 tons of poop per day! The aim of Snohomish County's pet waste program is to educate dog owners on proper disposal.
- **The Poop Solution:** The best way to protect our pets, our families and communities from bacterial pollution found in pet waste is to **scoop it, bag it and place it in the trash**.

Why Vet Clinics?

- Pet owners trust veterinarians. As trusted partners, you help share the **Poop Solution** with dog owners, and share tools to do the job. Your vet clinic is making a difference!

How does it work?

- **Snohomish County:** Coordinates the program; provides free training to your clinic; supplies Scoop-the-Poop resources
- **WSU Beach Watcher volunteer:** Delivers 60-75 Scoop-the-Poop kits to you, every other month, starting in March 2020; collects your feedback and relays it to the county
- **Your Vet Clinic:** Distributes kits to dog owners, for example, in "new puppy" packets or with fecal test results; shares the **Poop Solution** message

What's in each Scoop-the-Poop kit?

- **"Poop Solution" flier:** Customized to include your clinic's contact information
- **"We Scoop" sticker:** For display on your client's garbage can
- **Clip-on poop bag dispenser** (while supplies last; after that kits will include yellow refill rolls)



What if supplies get low between deliveries?

- Contact Snohomish County (425-388-3464).

Are other resources available?

- Yes! Contact the county (425-388-3464) and ask about:
 - **"Poop Solution" posters**
 - **Additional fliers and stickers**
- Borrow the **Poop Toss Game** for an event or link the **Dog Doogity Video** to your website. To learn more, visit www.petwaste.surfacewater.info.

What if we have more questions?

- Contact Snohomish County (425-388-3464). Your input helps improve the program.

- FAQ outlines program background and resources for clinic staff
- Beach Watchers include with kit deliveries

The Poop Solution

**Scoop the poop, bag it,
and put it in the trash.**



Healthy families.

Healthy pets.

Clean shoes.

Common
Questions...

Not Recommended!



Flushing:

- Overloads septic systems
- Is not practical!

Not Recommended!



Burying Waste:

- Bacteria and parasites get established in soils
- Pathogens and excess nutrients will pollute streams
- Lots of work!

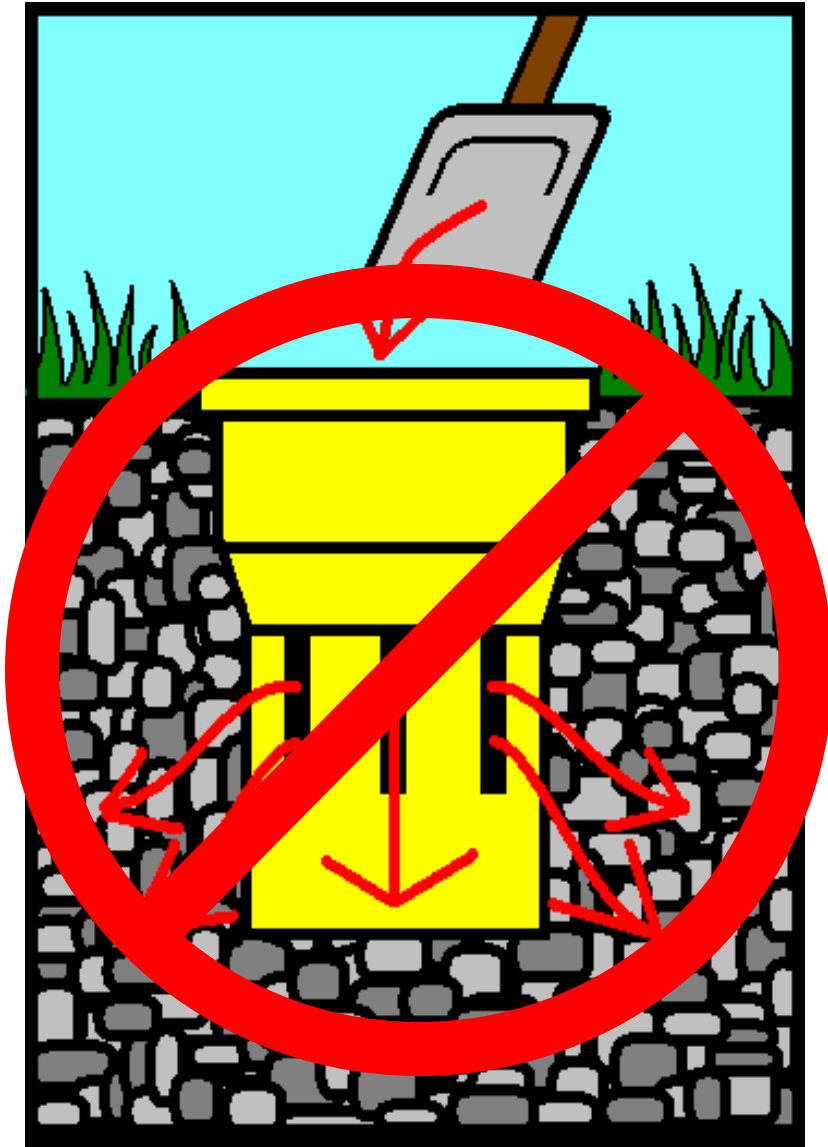
Not Recommended!



Composting Waste:

- Residential yard waste is not hot enough to kill harmful organisms
- Pet waste contaminates commercial compost

Not Recommended!



Digesters:

- Do not kill all pathogens
- Expensive!
- Require daily upkeep
- Essentially unmonitored septic systems



Questions?

Valerie Normand

Valerie.Normand@snoco.org

425-262-2885



Potential FAQs

- Who are you and what is this program all about?
- Do you charge vet clinics for these kits?
- Gosh, we ran out in the first week! Can we get more?
- Are you partnering with every vet clinic in Snohomish County?
- Shouldn't we reduce what goes into landfills?

Potential FAQs

- Isn't it illegal to put dog poop in your garbage can?
- Shouldn't they compost it / bury it instead?
- Should I use bags made out of biodegradable or regular plastic?
- The poop bags I buy are compostable, so it's okay to compost or leave outdoors, right?
- What do we tell cat owners about cat poop?