



Top Ten Reasons to Pick Up After Your Pet

*Every responsible pet owner agrees...picking up after your pet is a **MUST**.*

1. **It's the law.** Just like littering, it's unlawful **NOT** to pick up after your pet, and may be subject to a fine, so please do the right thing.
2. **It's common courtesy.** Cleaning up after your pet shows respect for neighbors and our community.
3. **Dog Poop is unhealthy.** Abandoned pet waste can host diseases or parasites which can infect other pets or people who come into contact with it.
4. **Dog Poop bio-degrades slowly.** Some people think it's okay to leave animal poop because it will break down naturally. The process is very slow, and in places where the dog population is high, abandoned poop accumulates faster than it breaks down.
5. **It's not fertilizer!** In fact, poop hinders landscaping efforts. Leaving animal poop encourages other dogs to mark that spot (by urinating over the previous dog's scent). Animal waste left on the grass contributes to the problem of "nitrogen burn."
6. **Animal waste pollutes the water.** Animal feces, like any feces, contain high levels of nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, which actually pollute storm water, which drains into our creeks and river.
7. **Animal waste is unsightly.** Everybody knows that. It's disgusting. Pick it up. We all deserve to live in a clean city of which we can be proud.
8. **Waste tops the list of complaints against dogs.** Along with dog aggression, nuisance barking or unsupervised dogs, most complaints against dogs are about people not cleaning up after their dogs.
9. **Animal waste makes dog owners look bad.** Dog Poop is a big 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 pet, you are part of the solution! And your actions will help convey the message that it's the right thing to do.

It's up to each of us to do our part to keep the City of Derby clean and poop-free.

