**DOG OWNERS: PLEASE COMPLY WITH THE LAW AND BAG YOUR DOG’S WASTE!**

**How much waste is out there?**

* There are over 83 million dogs in the United States, which would produce 22.7 billion pounds of waste per year. It would take at least three scoops the size of a football field and 800 feet tall (nearly as tall as the Chrysler Building in New York City!) to dispose of that waste.
* **The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 2 days worth of dog waste from about 100 dogs would contribute enough pollution to close a beach, and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it.**

**How long do piles take to decompose?**

* **Dog waste piles can take a year or more to fully break down, depending on climate, the animal’s diet, and other factors.**

**How much bacteria does pet waste contain?**

* Fecal coliform bacteria are bacteria that are common to the intestinal tracts of humans and animals.  These bacteria can enter water bodies from human and animal waste and may cause illness and disease if they do.
* One gram of dog waste (the weight of a business card) contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria (van der Wel, 1995), almost twice as much as human waste.  Keep in mind that the average dog excretes 0.75 pounds of waste per day (340 grams).  That equates to 7.82 billion fecal coliform bacteria per day!

**Is pet waste dangerous?**

* **Yes!  Pet wastes can transmit bacteria and viruses including tapeworm, roundworm, *E. coli*, Parvo, and more.**  Humans who come into contact with dog waste could contract campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, and toxocarisis, which may cause abdominal cramps, fever, coughing or wheezing, hives, and possibly permanent vision damage.  Animal waste can also attract mice and parasites that can get into your house or harm your pets and other animals.  Pick up animal waste to keep your family healthy.

**YOU ARE WRONG IF YOU THINK THE DOG WASTE WILL DECOMPOSE NATURALLY AND YOU ARE ALSO IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW. IF THIS CONTINUES WE WILL INITIATE SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT MEASURES LEADING TO YOUR BEING SUMMONED TO APPEAR IN COURT.**