

## **SIX IMPORTANT REASONS WHY YOU MUST PICK UP YOUR DOG WASTE**

### **Dog Diseases Spread Through the Stool (Faeces)**

Dogs smell it, roll in it, walk in it, even ingest it. And, often pick up serious diseases from it. Animal faeces are one of the most common sources of the following diseases:

1. **Parvo Virus** is one of the deadliest diseases in the dog population, particularly among puppies. Gaining entry through the mouth, the virus attacks the digestive tract and kills cells that are critical in the absorption of nutrients. Severe fluid loss through diarrhoea and vomiting can lead to death. Parvo also temporarily affects a dog's immune system, and can lead to heart failure in some young dogs.
2. **Whipworms** are blood suckers, tunnelling into the wall of the intestine for their blood meals. Vomiting, diarrhoea, and weight loss are common symptoms, and in large numbers, these parasites can cause anaemia. Difficult to diagnose, they are even harder to eliminate because they are often present in very large numbers.
3. **Hookworms** are blood suckers, attaching to the intestinal wall where they suck plugs of the intestinal tissue into their mouth structures. Anaemia and/or intense inflammation can result. Hookworm infections can be passed to humans.
4. **Roundworms (ascarids)** can affect the lungs and the digestive system, with typical signs being vomiting and diarrhoea. Convulsions can occur with heavy infections and the disease can spread to humans.
5. **Giardia** are one-celled parasites that can cause diarrhoea in cats and dogs. Infection with Giardia is often difficult to diagnose and treat effectively.
6. **Coccidia** are also one-celled parasites that can cause diarrhoea, especially in puppies and kittens.

**The best way to prevent these, and the many bacterial infections dogs can acquire from stools, is to pick up your dog waste and place it in the bins provided, also note that when it rains this breaks up or scatters the faeces and allows the worms or germs to spread into the environment.**

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