

## Not Just a Neighborly Thing to Do....

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There have been many ads on the radio this summer for the “PUP program” from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. So what is this and what does it mean?

PUP = PICK UP POOP

Seems like a campaign that should be run by Emily Post or some other etiquette guru, right? After all, leaving your dog’s droppings around the neighborhood is a bit rude and disrespectful to your neighbors who are trying to enjoy the outdoors and keep their lawns nice. But what other impact does this have on our environment? And why does the NEORSD care?

Here are a few factoids straight from their literature:

- An average pile of dog poop produces 3,000,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria.
- Dog droppings have **10 times more** fecal coliform bacteria than cow manure.
- Dog poop can also contain other bacteria such as e. coli, salmonella and giardia.
- Dog waste is **NOT a fertilizer**; dogs eat high protein diets resulting in highly acidic waste (unlike a cow’s vegetarian diet).
- 40% of US households have at least one dog. There are approximately 90,000 dogs in Cuyahoga County, producing 45 tons of fecal waste each day.

When it rains, the water runoff takes whatever is on the ground to our waterways and beaches. This includes lawn chemicals, litter, and the bacteria from the aforementioned offending canine material.

So please, let’s be good neighbors and good stewards of our environment and participate in this regional effort. For more information and to sign a pledge (and get a sign for your lawn if you want it!) go to: [www.wheredoesitgo.org/PUP](http://www.wheredoesitgo.org/PUP) and [www.neorsd.org](http://www.neorsd.org) for more information.

Happy Scooping!