



Summary of Downtown Dog Poop Awareness and Control Program

Tennessee Izaak Walton League



For centuries, dogs have lived with humans generally enhancing their quality of life. From saving lives to herding sheep, dogs have benefited humans greatly, but the modern city has led to the development of a “too much of a good thing” scenario. All over the world cities are becoming bigger and populations are becoming denser. Yet it is not just humans who find they are rubbing shoulders with more of their neighbors, dogs are so prevalent that it is hard for them to even sniff all the potential friends!

Each of those dogs has the potential to be a bacterial, fungal, insect, and social problem. Many municipalities the world over have had no choice but to address this problem. A survey conducted in the London Borough of Camden found that dog feces were second only to traffic congestion as an environmental issue amongst its residents. The city of Alicante, Spain has deployed 12 customized mopeds and employees who work full time where in the first month an astonishing 45,000 piles of poop were collected. Much closer to home an ordinance of the city of Atlanta, Georgia places a fine of up to \$1,000 for failing to pick up after your dog. So why all the fuss?

Dog feces has many negative impacts on the urban environment. Piles can cause insect infestation, bacteria and fungal growth, and spread disease if left to sit too long. Also, dog poop gets washed from these small urban green sites into public waterways causing contamination. According to the EPA a body of water is safe for human contact if it contains less than 200 fecal colonies per sample. One gram of dog poop alone carries an average of 20,000,000 fecal colonies. With the average observed single dog poop in

downtown Knoxville residing in the 60-70 gram range it isn't hard to calculate the problem.

Aside from these health concerns there is also a social problem caused by an increased dog population that is required to be addressed. In Knoxville, law-abiding dog owners and non-dog owners pooled their strength and began the war of the flags by flagging each of the forgotten poops left by disrespectful dog owners in the central business district. Merchants around the problem areas also joined in the cry for attention to be brought to the problem as patrons' shoes were being accosted by the onslaught of doggy doo.

In response to this cry the League began a collection study of dog poop on one site referred to as the research site. The results from this study are as follows.

1g = 20,000,000 fecal coliform colonies

Dog Poop

Area 562.5ft²

March-April									
Date	Days	Piles	Piles/Day	Stepped	% Stepped	Weight	lbs.	grams	Fecal Colonies
3/1/2004		129		19	15%	17lbs. 10oz.	17.63	7,994.56	159,891,180,000
3/4/2004	3	none	0.0	none					
3/17/2004	14	12	0.9	3	25%	2 lbs.	2	907.18	18,143,680,000
3/19/2004	2	4	2.0	1	25%	.5 lbs.	0.5	226.80	4,535,920,000
3/22/2004	3	4	1.3	1	25%	1.75 lbs.	1.75	793.79	15,875,720,000
3/24/2004	2	5	2.5	0	0%	1.25 lbs.	1.25	566.99	11,339,800,000
3/29/2004	5	6	1.2	0	0%	.75 lbs.	0.75	340.19	6,803,880,000
4/12/2004	14	24	1.7	7	29%	1lb. 12oz	0.75	340.19	6,803,880,000
4/17/2004	5	9	1.8	4	44%	1lb. 6oz.	1.375	623.69	12,473,780,000
4/26/2004	9	15	1.7	3	20%	3lbs. 5oz.	3.313	1,502.52	30,050,470,000
4/30/2004	4	8	2.0	2	25%	2lbs. 8oz.	2.5	1,133.98	22,679,600,000
totals	61	216	3.5	40	18.50%	31lbs. 13oz.	31.81	14,429.90	288,597,910,000
May-in process									
5/7/2004	7	7	1.0	4	57%	2lbs.	2	907.19	18,143,800,000
5/11/2004	4	4	1.0	1	25%	1lb. 10oz.	1.625	737.088	14,741,760,000
5/17/2004	6	12	2.0	3	25%	1lb. 8oz.	1.5	680.389	13,607,780,000
5/23/2004	6	9	1.5	4	45%	2lbs. 6oz.	2.375	1077.28	21,545,600,000
6/4/2004	12	14	1.6	4	28.6%	4lbs. 3oz.	4.19	453.592	9,071,840,000
6/18/2004	14	18	1.3	7	38.8%	3lbs. 8oz.	3.5	1587.57	31,751,400,000
6/21/2004	3	7	2.3	2	28.6%	2lbs.	2	907.19	18,143,800,000
totals	52	71	10.7	25	35.43%	17lbs. 3oz.	17.19	7797.25	155,945,000,000

The Tennessee Izaak Walton League, in conjunction with the before mention community members, have come together with **Prestige Cleaners, City People** and the **City of Knoxville** to call for and install a dog poop facility in the open space in front of O.P Jenkins in downtown Knoxville, as well as eight more doggy doo baggie dispensers which have been placed in other problem sites around Knoxville. These sites include the new green space connecting Gay St. and Crutch Park, the green space in Market Square, - a small space at the corner of Locust and Clinch, one facility at each of the two public parking areas of Cherokee Park, and two facilities along the greenway at Lakeshore Park.

After the installation of these facilities the collection study was expanded to include the originally disputed site outside the OP Jenkins store, and another small green space named the Sterchi site. The data shows the great amount of progress that has been made in the downtown area on awareness and self-management of the dog poop problem.

OP Jenkins		
	piles	stepped
5/13/2004	59	23
5/17/2004	0	0
5/19/2004	1	0
6/1/2004	3	0
6/5/2004	1	0
6/5/2004	3	0
6/18/2004	2	0

Sterchi		
	# piles	stepped
5/17/2004	3	0
5/19/2004	2	0
6/1/2004	2	0
6/5/2004	1	0
6/5/2004	0	0
6/18/2004	1	0

After observing a significant decrease in doggy doo on the site we began a study of how much dog doo, and the fecal coliform colonies, was being removed from the site rather than affecting nearby First Creek. The results of the study are represented below. Astonishingly, over one trillion fecal coliform colonies have been removed from these sites alone in less than four months of study!

10/27/2004	18 lbs.
11/17/2004	25lbs. 1oz.
12/6/2004	22lbs. 1oz.
12/8/2004	14lbs. 2oz.
12/22/2004	21lbs. 4oz.
1/7/2004	22lbs. 1oz.
1/13/2004	18lbs 11oz.
Avg.	~20lbs. 3oz.
Total	141lbs. 4oz.
Total in grams	64069.898grams
Fecal Impact	1,281,397,960,000 fecal colonies