**Scooping the poop with style**

*There once was a gal from Stillwater,*

*Whose dog was a too frequent squatter.*

*She’d pick up the poo,*

*‘Cause it’s the right thing to do,*

*But man, did she wish it was not her.*

According to DoodyCalls, a pet waste removal service, the 78.2 million dogs currently living in the U.S. create 10 million tons of waste every year, which is enough to fill 267,500 tractor trailers to the brim. Larger dogs obviously create more waste than smaller dogs, but none-the-less, an average sized dog can easily generate 255 pounds of poop in one year!

Unfortunately, dog poop can carry many bacteria and parasites, including heartworm, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, parvovirus, giardia, salmonella and *E. coli*. Some of the parasites remain infectious in contaminated soil for years.

Many people falsely believe dog poop acts as a fertilizer, but because dogs are carnivores, their poop is actually quite different from horse or cow manure. In addition, dog poop contains high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen (human feces does as well). Dog waste can contribute to harmful algae blooms in local lakes and rivers if the poop washes into storm sewers or roadside ditches. Some cities have even had to close beaches near dog parks after rainstorms due to polluted runoff.

The city of [insert name here] requires all pet owners to pick up and dispose of dog poop and other pet waste in the garbage. [Insert ordinance language here.] Please remember to bring plastic bags with you when you walk you dog and pick up dog waste in your yard as well.