

There is no poop fairy.



Please clean up after your dog.

Dog waste doesn't biodegrade like wild animal waste. It sticks around for a long time. Meanwhile, it contains harmful bacteria, pollutes groundwater, and smells disgusting on the bottom of a shoe. Please help keep parks, trails and neighborhoods free of poop piles by packing out your dog's waste.

*A message from Jefferson County Animal Control
and your local park district.
Visit <http://animalcontrol.jeffco.us>*

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Like the Loch Ness Monster or Bigfoot, the fabled poop fairy has been the stuff of legend. Flying undetected in parks, neighborhoods and schoolyards, she was said to follow close behind dogs and their owners — picking up what the dog left behind, before flying off to the next canine creation. A widespread belief that she existed seemed to reassure some that cleaning up after one's dog was sort of ... optional.

*However, in response to a growing number of poop piles, and a growing number of citizen complaints, the Jefferson County Animal Control office has partnered with local park districts and homeowner associations to bring you this public service announcement: **There is no poop fairy.***

The facts about dog poop

Dog Poop Doesn't Biodegrade Like Wild Animal Poop

Because we feed our dogs food that's very different from the food wild animals eat, dog waste does not biodegrade quickly like wild animal waste. And because of the sheer number of pets in suburban neighborhoods and in local parks, this hardy dog waste accumulates.

Dog Poop Contains Harmful Bacteria, Parasites

Dog waste can contain harmful organisms like E. coli, giardia, salmonella, roundworms, hookworms, and cryptosporidium. These can be passed on to you or your pet, and may cause health problems.

Dog Waste Pollutes Groundwater, Water Bodies

Bacteria in dog waste can harm water quality in creeks and rivers, and alter the ecosystems of these stream corridors. Humans who come in contact with creek water can also face health hazards.

County Ordinances Require Cleanup

Jefferson County ordinances* make "failure to clean up dog feces in public places" a petty offense with a fine of at least \$30. Many local park districts have similar regulations and fines.

*Part 3 Regulations, Chapter 5 Animals, Section 1, D4h

Please share this message with your friends and neighbors.

Together, we can debunk the poop fairy myth and clean up our county.

visit animalcontrol.jeffco.us or like us on [facebook](#)