

# Scoop the Poop Keep the Rio Grand!

Did you know there are at least 43,349 licensed dogs in the City of Albuquerque creating more than 20 tons of dog waste each day? If not disposed of properly, that waste can:

- Make the water in the Rio Grande unsafe
- Infect children and adults with disease-causing bacteria and parasites
- Spread diseases between pets



An Animal Control Ordinance says, “waste left by a dog on any property other than the owner’s must be cleaned up by the pet owner. If the law is violated, you could be subject to prosecution.”

## Pet Waste Can Affect Our River, People and Pets

Pet waste left on the ground can wash into storm drains and end up in the Rio Grande. Once in the river, it uses up oxygen when it begins to decay, harming fish and aquatic life and making our river water unsafe.

Improper disposal of pet waste can put our health at risk, too. Pets and children who play in yards or parks where pet waste is not picked up are at risk for infection from disease-causing bacteria and parasites, such as:

**Campylobacteriosis** - causes diarrhea in humans.

**Salmonellosis** - causes fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.

**Toxocariasis** - can potentially cause vision loss, a rash, fever, or a cough.

**Toxoplasmosis** - can cause birth defects if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy and can also be a problem for people with depressed immune systems.

# YOU CAN HELP By Disposing of Pet Waste Properly:

- When walking with your pet, take a plastic bag or paper bag along and pick up its waste.
- Regularly pick up waste left in your yard, especially if your children play there or you spend time there, and put it in a bag for disposal.
- Secure the bag and put it in your household trash (don't use a yard waste container).

*It's that easy and  
it's the right thing to do  
to protect our land,  
our water and  
your health!*



A message from the



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW MEXICO



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION



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