

Good Dogs — Happy Owners — Healthy Creek

# It's natural, but too much is too much!

- ◆ While dog waste is biodegradable, it usually breaks down more slowly than wild animal waste since dog food is different than the food wild animals eat.
- ◆ With the large number of dogs in urban neighborhoods and local parks, dog waste accumulates in unnatural quantities.

**Never let your dog lag behind; you could miss what they *leave* behind! Bag and pick up your dog's waste each and every time.**



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## Facing facts

- ♦ Dog waste can contain harmful bacteria and parasites, some of which can remain in the soil even after the stool has disappeared.
- ♦ These micro-organisms can be especially harmful to children, even causing blindness.
- ♦ Dog waste can leach into the creek, carrying bacteria and parasite eggs into the water.
- ♦ Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from dog waste can result in algal blooms in the creek that can deplete oxygen needed by fish and creek invertebrates.

## Play it safe ~ keep your dog with you to:

- ♦ avoid poison oak and other potential hazards,
- ♦ minimize conflicts with wildlife, other dogs, and trail enthusiasts,

- ♦ protect the creek and our few remaining rainbow trout populations.

## Oakland park rules

- ♦ Please use trash cans: You can be cited for littering if you leave dog waste bags along the trail.
- ♦ Oakland city parks that allow dogs on trails are designated **on-leash** areas. Owners of off-leash dogs may be ticketed.

## Share the trail

- ♦ Our trails are used by people, dogs, and wildlife. Please respect all users.

Thank you for helping to preserve the natural beauty and balance of our watershed.



Friends of Sausal Creek  
PROMOTING WATERSHED AWARENESS

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