

## About MayDOG

- MayDOG is the Maynard Dog Owners Group, a 501c3 non-profit community organization in Maynard, MA.
- Our mission is to promote responsible dog ownership and safe, legal off-leash recreation in Maynard and the surrounding areas.
- Our primary goal is to establish a dog park in Maynard.
- We also hold social events, sponsor a walking group, organize an annual “fun-raiser”, produce educational materials about responsible pet care, conduct workshops on training and dog behavior, promote pet emergency preparedness and first aid programs, participate in town-wide clean-ups, promote dog-friendly improvements to the town, and encourage dog-friendly businesses.
- Visit our website at [www.maydog.org](http://www.maydog.org) for more information.



### The Maynard Dog Owners Group (MayDOG)

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Promoting responsible  
dog ownership and  
safe, legal  
off-leash recreation  
in Maynard, MA

## MayDOG Presents: The Top Ten Reasons to Pick Up After Your Dog

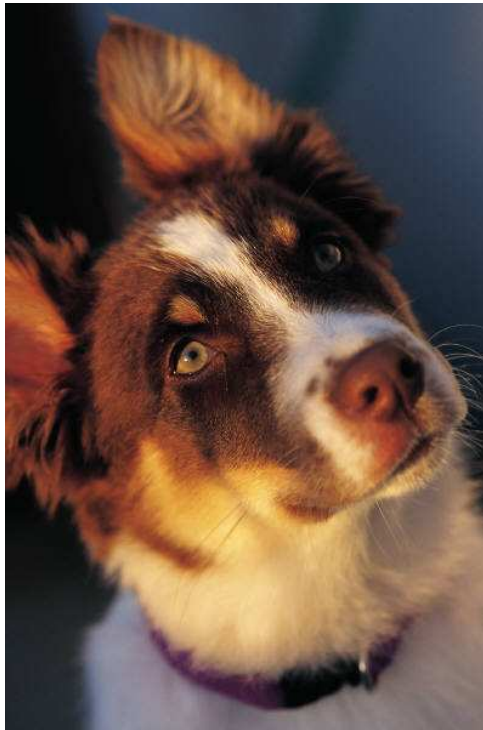


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## Top Ten Reasons to Pick Up After Your Dog



1. **It's the law.** Just like littering, it's unlawful NOT to pick up after your dog, and your violation is subject to fine. The Maynard Dog Owners Group strongly supports tough fines against people who do not pick up after their dogs.

2. **It's common courtesy.** Cleaning up after your dogs shows respect for our neighbors and our community. Only irresponsible dog owners leave their dog's poop for others to look at, step in or clean up.

3. **It's not fertilizer!** In fact, poop impedes landscaping efforts. Leaving dog poop encourages other dogs to mark that spot (by urinating over the previous dog's scent): poop left on the grass contributes to the problem of "nitrogen burn."

4. **Dog poop tops the list of complaints against dogs.** More than dog aggression, nuisance barking, or unsupervised dogs, most complaints against dogs are about people not cleaning up after their dogs. This is true for city parks, sidewalks, and your neighbors' lawns.



5. **Dog poop makes dog owners look bad.** For everyone who cares about dogs, the worst thing about dog poop is that it is bad for public relations. Every time you don't pick up after your dog, you are giving one more reason for others to dislike dogs and dog owners.

6. **Dog poop is unhealthy.** Abandoned dog poop can host diseases and/or parasites which can infect other dogs who come into contact with it, or be transmitted to people who accidentally step in it and track it home. Disposing of dog poop immediately helps all of us stay healthier and reduces feces-borne parasites and illnesses.

7. **Dog poop biodegrades slowly.** Some people think it's okay to leave dog poop because

it will break down naturally. However, the biodegradation process is very slow, and abandoned dog poop can accumulate faster than it breaks down — especially in the winter.

8. **Dog poop pollutes the water.** Dog feces, like any feces, contains high levels of nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, which actually pollute the water. These nutrients feed and stimulate the growth of algae, which can cause the water body to become depleted in oxygen, making it less healthy for fish, and large levels of growth can impede the recreational and aesthetic value of water as well. ("The Scoop on Poop," Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program)

9. **Dog poop is unsightly.** Everybody knows that. It's disgusting. Pick it up. We all deserve to live in a clean town where we can be proud and step lightly.

10. **Your actions set an example for others.** When you pick up after your dog, you are part of the solution! And your actions will help convey the message that it's the right thing to do. Many people even carry extra bags to offer to others as a subtle and neighborly hint that cleaning up after our dogs is what responsible dog owners do.



Brochure text adapted from material originally published by the Beverly Animal Resource Coalition.

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