Consequences of NOT Cleaning Up Dog Waste

● Beyond the mess and the smell, it's potentially infectious to other animals and to humans.

● Waste left to wash into the soil, whether in a neighbourhood, trail or dog park, can spread life threatening parasites, not to other dogs and cats, but also to wild animals and to people

● Signs that remind you to pick up after your pet are not just trying to keep public spaces clean; they're urging you to help safeguard your community's health.

● Common dog waste parasites include hookworms, roundworms, coccidia and whipworms. Hookworms and roundworms can thrive in a variety of species, including humans.

● Beyond parasites, unattended droppings may also be contaminated with viruses that can create life-threatening disease in other animals, domesticated and wild.

● Key points to remember to avoid parasites and minimize the impact on our ecosystem:

- Pick waste up and safely throw it out regardless of where your pet poops. Sanitize your hands afterwards.
- Wash your hands before eating or touching your face while gardening or working in the yard.
- Avoid rinsing poop into the soil. Using rain or a garden hose only removes the visible mess, not the microscopic issues.
- Make sure sandboxes are covered when not in use.
- Keep your pets on intestinal de-worming schedules.
- Have your vet test your pet's waste for intestinal parasites.