



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District declares war on dog poo, citing environmental concerns

Published: Friday, July 02, 2010, 4:24 PM Updated: Saturday, July 03, 2010, 7:32 AM



Michael Scott, The Plain Dealer



Plain Dealer file photo

These dogs sniffing around the gate at the Eastlake Dog Park in a 2007 photo probably aren't aware that their species is blamed by human researchers for some of the harmful bacteria that ends up in Lake Erie each year.

You've got to hand it to the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District** for trying to make dog poo interesting -- and for pulling out their pun machine to do it.

Sometimes playfully pitched by their marketing folks as "just another crappy story" or under the slogan "doggies can't scoop it, so you have to 'doo' it" or "let's talk dirty for a moment," the sewer district is actually very serious about addressing a sometimes forgotten contributor to water pollution.

Their **PUP** (yup, it stands for "Pick Up Poop") campaign is out to educate pet owners about the "environmental hazards of abandoned poop."

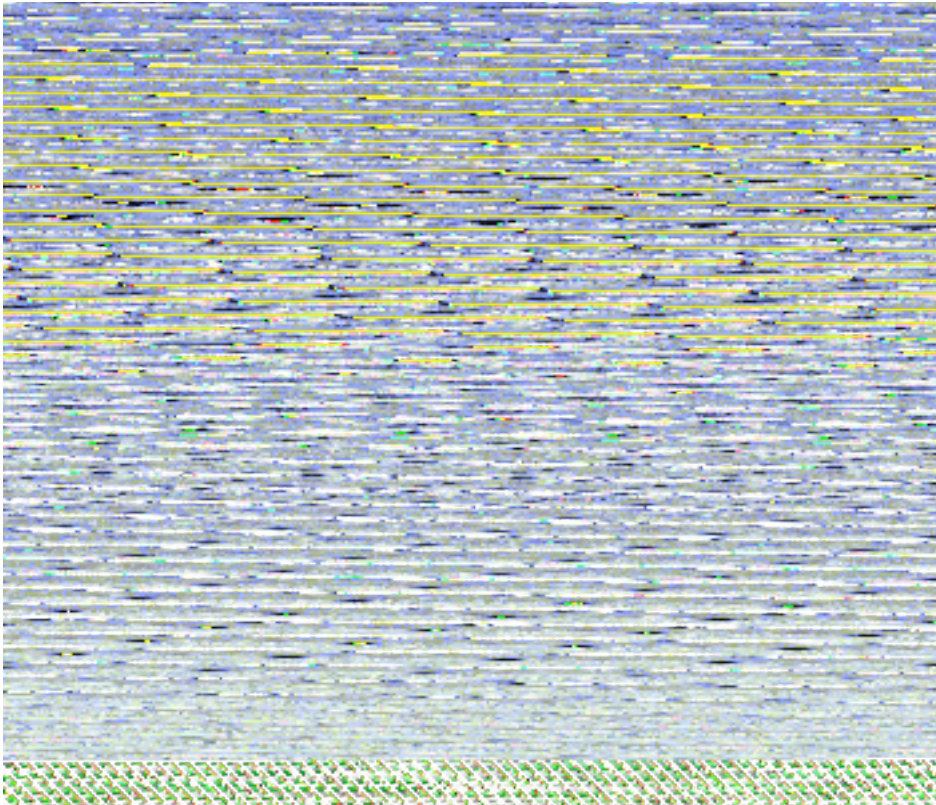
"There are approximately 90,000 dogs living in Cuyahoga County, producing 45 tons of poop each day," said Frank Greenland, director of watershed programs for the district.

Worse, an average pile of canine waste can produce up to 3 *billion* fecal coliform bacteria -- that's 10 times more than cow manure (and way more acidic because dogs eat a higher protein diet than their vegetarian cow pals).

This means that dogs can actually harm water quality, including at local beaches because when it rains, the runoff water washes nearly everything into storm drains and local waterways.

The solution, of course, is to take a bag (biodegradable, if possible) with you when you walk your dog, scoop up the waste, put it in the trash -- and keep it out of the water.

VIDEO: Oh, and as if we really need another crappy reminder of the disappointing 2009-10 Cavaliers season...Here's the sewer district's PUP promotional video with Cav's mascot Moondog (keep watching until the end of the video...ugh).



© 2010 cleveland.com. All rights reserved.