

POOP-POOP-PEE-DOO! (as sung by Betty Boop)”

Susan Isaacs, trainer
Phone: 310-248-2420
Email: susanisaacs@mac.com

OK, so you forgot your doggie bag on your walk...just this once. It happens. But some folks just can't ever seem to pick up after their dogs in public.

Maybe they find it a distasteful, embarrassing act to perform. Stepping in it in a pair of open-toed sandals; sliding on it and taking a dive onto your keister; and tracking it into Spago are also distasteful and embarrassing.

So here are some suggestions to make the dog-walking / potty experience less excruciating. Please note that we do not endorse any of the products or services mentioned below. They are offered only as creative ideas:

- Get a “poop pouch” fanny pack to drop the bag of poop into so you don't have to walk around with it in your hand. Several compartments allow you to carry more than just poop. www.thepoochpouch.com. By the way, biodegradable bags are the best to use. www.biobagusa.com
- Teach your dog to carry her own poop bag. Lulu might hold it gently in her mouth (Golden Retrievers often LOVE to carry stuff); or you could fit her with a doggie knap sack, which is a kind of canine saddlebag. The saddlebag also holds a lot more than just doo! www.ldsleather.com
- Hire a responsible dog walker to do your dirty work. A dog walker will both exercise Fido AND clean up after him. www.thepetstaff.com
- Buy some “poop freeze” to harden the pile into a poopsicle so it can be picked up easily. (Need we say more?!) www.petcarecentral.com
- Use a mechanical pooper scooper with built-in bags to pick up and dispose of the doo for you (look Ma, no hands!). The long handle grabs it – no more bending over and wrenching your back. www.drsfostersmith.com
- Don't get a dog in the first place. Walks provide exercise, fresh air and one of Buster's favorite pastimes: to see and smell the world, all in the company of his favorite human! Scooping the poop goes with the territory. You no like? Maybe you adopt turtle or fish?

We all know why we need to pick up after our dogs. The reasons seem obvious. Not so obvious is the statistic from the State Water Resources Control Board that some 5 billion pounds of dog poop – imagine 9 football fields one foot high – are produced every year in the US. It's toxic stuff -- e-coli, salmonella and other cooties dangerous to both human and canine health get washed into our waterways.

And, in case anyone has forgotten, it's still illegal.

