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CONTACT: Roberta Bonaski, 623-930-3523, Community Services Department

## GLENDALE PARK RANGERS ASK DOG OWNERS TO ANSWER THE “CALL OF DOODIE”

**Glendale, Ariz.**--Glendale Park Rangers have initiated a “Call of Doodie” pet waste removal campaign to educate residents and visitors to City parks on the importance of pet waste removal.

Being responsible pet companions and picking up after your dog helps to prevent health risks and assists in removing harmful nutrients and bacteria from local waterways. “This in turn helps to keep our human and canine citizens healthy and makes visits to City parks and natural desert areas more enjoyable for everyone. “Scooping your pooch’s poop isn’t just a courtesy, it’s the healthy and environmentally sound thing to do,” said Mike Gregory, Park Administrator.

EPA scientists estimate that pet waste is responsible for 24% of the bacteria in urban and suburban watercourses. An estimated 900,000 dogs live in Maricopa County. A day’s waste from one large dog can contain 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria. If not picked up, pet waste can contaminate waterways and spread harmful bacteria.

### Test your knowledge! How much do you know about pet waste?

#### 1. Dog waste is just like fertilizer.

**False.** Dog waste is high in nutrients like fertilizer, but when these nutrients wash into waterways, they promote weed and algae growth and limit the oxygen available for fish and other aquatic organisms.

#### 2. Dog waste has double the bacteria and pathogens as human waste.

**True.** Dog waste also has 10 times as much bacteria and pathogens as cow waste.

#### 3. Dog waste isn’t a big contributor of bacterial pollution in urban watersheds.

**False.** Dog waste is the third largest contributor of bacterial pollution in urban watersheds. Scientists estimate that pet waste may be responsible for 20-30% of the harmful bacteria in our urban waterways.

#### 4. More than half of pet owners pick up after their pets.

**True.** More than 60% of your friends and neighbors know that picking up their pet’s waste is part of being a responsible pet owner. This leaves lots of room for improvement! With an estimate of nearly seven million pounds of dog Waste generated per year in Maricopa County, the protection of our local waterways is important.

#### 5. Leaving bagged waste on the side of a trail is just fine.

**False.** Bagged pet waste should be thrown in garbage cans, not off the trail or in the grass. Try using a dog waste pouch that attaches to your leash to carry it to the next trash can.

**Who to Contact When Pet Waste Bags Stations Are Empty**

If you are enjoying one of the City's parks, natural areas or trails [parkconcerns@glendaleaz.com](mailto:parkconcerns@glendaleaz.com) or 623-930-2691.

**PET WASTE POLLUTES!**

An ounce of pet waste is home to almost 23 million unhealthy bacteria. Please pick up after your pet. Keep it off the trails and out of our parks!

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