

REAL
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NEWS RELEASE

Dog Owners: Prevent Poo-lution and Keep Your Dog Healthy and Safe

REAL is hosting a special workshop on Sat. Apr. 14 for dog owners.

There's nothing like the love of a dog. And dog owners, or their companions, return that love by taking good care of their pets.

REAL's workshop will show you how to build a dog waste digester and address the environmental issue of road salt on dogs' paws and the potential for cyanide poisoning when a dog licks their paws after a winter walk. You'll learn about alternatives to salt that you can use on your driveway and walkway to keep you safe in the winter and protect our environment and your pet.

But dogs also have an affect on our environment.

Dogs are meat eaters - their waste is four times more harmful than human waste. Full of nitrogen and E. coli bacteria, their waste can kill plants, damage grass, and make us sick.

What's more, poo-lution that is left on the ground gets flushed into separated stormwater sewers and directly into the river when it rains, causing algae blooms and the growth of too many aquatic plants. It can also contribute to the closure of our beaches and swimming areas.

Scoop the poop is practiced by conscientious dog owners. And putting it in garbage to go to landfill is better than leaving it on the ground. But in landfill, it contributes to the toxic soup of chemicals that leach out of landfills.

Better is to build a dog waste digester that naturally breaks down the waste, deals with the pathogens and returns it to the soil. It's simple and easy to do, and your neighbours will appreciate it.

Come to REAL's workshop to learn how to build a digester, to learn about protecting your dog from road salt, and have a chance to win a dog-friendly prize.

REAL is delivering the workshop, with endorsement from the Lanark Animal Welfare Society (LAWS). The workshop is free, but donations of pet food to LAWS or cash towards the Smiths Falls dog park, are most welcome.

Space is limited so please register in advance. Contact Lynn Preston, RAIN co-ordinator at lynn@realdealstore.ca or at 613-283-9500.

The workshop will be held at The REAL Deal Reuse Store, 85 William St. West in Smiths Falls, Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

This workshop is brought to you by REAL, its RAIN program, and The Ontario Trillium Foundation.



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