

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

KATY TANG
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**** PRESS RELEASE ****

SUPERVISOR TANG ANNOUNCES PET OWNER OUTREACH PROGRAM (POOP)

San Francisco Animal Care & Control and the San Francisco SPCA to offer free dog waste bags and dispensers with dog adoptions

Today Supervisor Katy Tang announced a program designed to curb a prolific problem on our city sidewalks – abandonment of pet poop. POOP, the aptly named “Pet Owner Outreach Program,” is a campaign to educate those that adopt dogs from shelters about existing pet waste laws and to provide them with free tools to comply. Supervisor Tang was joined by San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SFACC), the San Francisco SPCA, and Sanford Johnson, owner of Sunset Pet Supply, for the launch event.

Both SF ACC and the SF SPCA will launch the POOP program beginning today, and every dog adoption will come with a free set of dog waste bags and a bag dispenser. Supervisor Tang’s intention behind the program was to curb the bad behavior before it begins, by educating dog guardians during the adoption process.

“I am sure that many of us have stepped into dog waste accidentally and found ourselves frustrated by the poopetrators,” said Supervisor Katy Tang. “Even with existing laws on the books, I still hear complaints from residents that pet guardians are not being held responsible and the law is not being enforced. Let’s all do our ‘doody’ and pick up after our dogs!”

Supervisor Tang follows in the footsteps of former Supervisor Harvey Milk, who was the original sponsor of the [Scoop the Poop Act of 1978](#). Even then, he knew the law would be difficult to enforce and believed that education and a culture shift were key to keeping the streets, parks and sidewalks free of pet waste. POOP aims to begin education at the point of adoption, where shelter staff can explain existing laws and encourage dog guardians to do their part to keep our city clean.

“Animal Care & Control is proud to participate in Supervisor Tang’s campaign to encourage responsible pet ownership,” said Virginia Donohue, Director of SF ACC. “As a dog owner, I am devoted to making sure my dog does not leave a mess that becomes someone else’s problem. Stop, stoop and scoop up that poop – your fellow San Franciscans will thank you for it.”

The SF SPCA designed a hang tag to accompany the pet poo freebees. The tag reads, “Pet Poo Skidoo: Few things irritate people as much as the abandoned deposits produced by San Francisco’s 200,000 dogs. Despite posted signs, city regulations, and the looks of disapproval from passersby, some dog owners still

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don't clean up after their pets. To combat this messy problem, the San Francisco SPCA, San Francisco Animal Care & Control and San Francisco Supervisor Katy Tang want to remind you to keep our city tidy and pick up after your pooch.”

“Pet waste is a health concern, both for humans and our canine friends. Most guardians do the right thing and clean up but it only takes a few irresponsible owners to create a problem,” said Jennifer Scarlett, President of the SF SPCA. “We’re campaigning to remind all San Franciscans of the importance of cleaning up after their pets.”

Animal Care and Control Officers have been great partners on enforcement and education. When they know who the culprit is, they have visited the person and provided a warning and education about compliance. But the POOP program will provide this education before the person even leaves the shelter with their pet.

Following the announcement of POOP, SF ACC and the SF SPCA also advertised a social media photo contest that will last through the end of May. Dog guardians can post a photo of themselves picking up their dog waste to their social media accounts with the hashtag **#notapoopetrator** for the chance to win a prize – an exclusive tour of the San Francisco City Hall dome.

Sanford Johnson, owner of Sunset Pet Supply and Tails of the City, has been walking dogs for almost 25 years. “I and almost every professional dog walker you will meet makes it a point to pick up every turd they come across whether it is their dog or not,” said Sanford. “Either we pick it up in the park today or we will be stepping in in tomorrow.”

For more information, please contact Supervisor Katy Tang’s office at (415) 554-7460 or Katy.Tang@sfgov.org.

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