

# Ranger Rick's ADVENTURES

RANGER RICK RACCOON, SCARLETT FOX, AND BOOMER BADGER ARE WALKING TO A LOCAL PARK TO MEET THEIR FRIEND, OLLIE OTTER, FOR A SWIM.

Oh, Boomer. Can't you just say you're tired?

Why? It means the same thing. Besides, what's wrong with poop? It's perfectly natural.

Ewww.

Well, he's right. Everybody poops.

See? Rick knows the scoop on poop.

Speaking of which...

Check THAT out!

What IS it?

It's bear scat! That's bear poop to you, Boomer. See how it's big and full of seeds?

Cool!

Spotting scat is a great way to tell which animals live around here. You can usually figure out whose scat is whose by size, shape, and the stuff that's in it.

There you go, Scarlett. Poop isn't just natural—it's educational.

Whew! What a hike. I'm pooped.

Hey, look! More scat! What animal left THAT?

Wait—that looks like DOG poop. And there's more over by the path.

Uh-oh. That's NOT natural.

What's the big deal? Poop is poop, right?

Not quite, Boom.

Wild animals usually live pretty spread out, so their waste is broken down into the environment. But in cities and suburbs, there are LOTS of dogs. So their poop is everywhere!

Ewww! I'll watch my step.

Stepping in it isn't even the worst that could happen.

That's right. Some poop—especially dog poop—is full of nasty germs that can make people and wild animals sick.

And when all that waste gets washed by rain into streams and ponds, the germs get into the water. It can also make too much algae grow.

You mean like this?

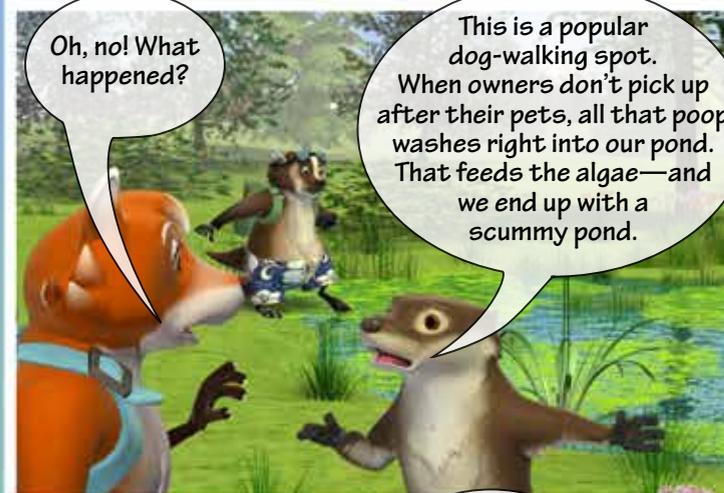
There you are, Ollie! How's it going?

Not so great. I'm afraid our dip in the pond might be a big bust.



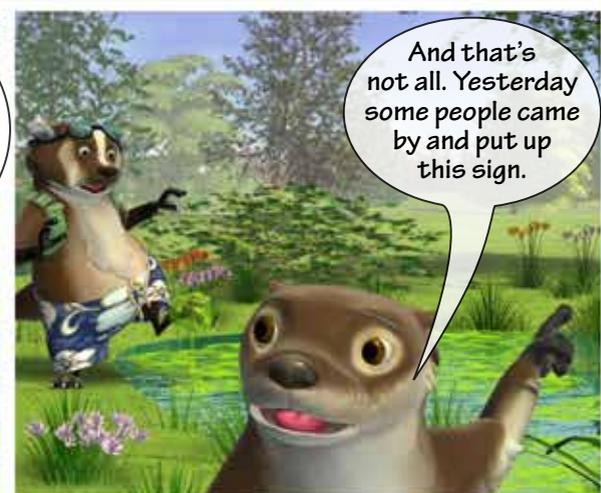
What do you mean?

Our favorite swimming pond is covered in gross, stinky scum!



Oh, no! What happened?

This is a popular dog-walking spot. When owners don't pick up after their pets, all that poop washes right into our pond. That feeds the algae—and we end up with a scummy pond.



And that's not all. Yesterday some people came by and put up this sign.



Ollie, that's awful!

Yeah! How am I going to try out my new goggles?



**WARNING**  
UNSAFE FOR SWIMMING  
Water temporarily POLLUTED because of high bacteria levels which may pose a risk to your health.



And where am I going to find lunch? Not many fish could survive in that pond.

I have an idea! Come with me.



A LITTLE WHILE LATER . . .

We're almost there!



Here we are!

It's so beautiful!

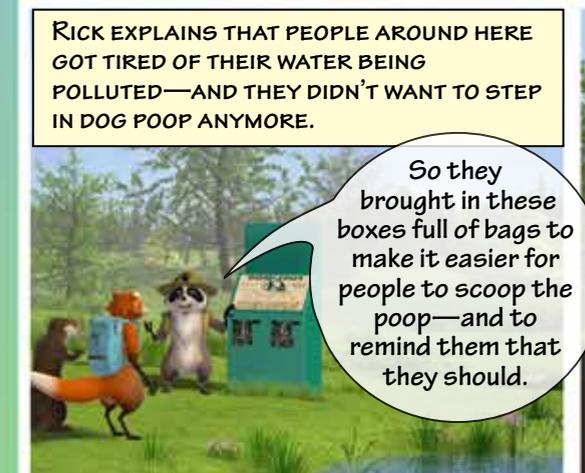
It's SO time to swim!

It's so clean!



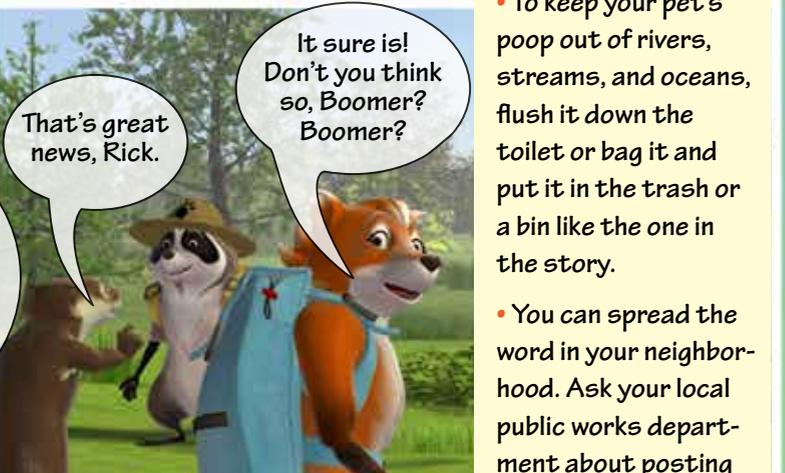
But wait—why is this place so much cleaner than our swimming hole?

I think we have THIS to thank.



RICK EXPLAINS THAT PEOPLE AROUND HERE GOT TIRED OF THEIR WATER BEING POLLUTED—AND THEY DIDN'T WANT TO STEP IN DOG POOP ANYMORE.

So they brought in these boxes full of bags to make it easier for people to scoop the poop—and to remind them that they should.



That's great news, Rick.

It sure is! Don't you think so, Boomer? Boomer?



Come on in, guys, the water's fine—and CLEAN!

### MORE FACTS

• About 83 million dogs live in U.S. homes. And four in ten dog owners don't scoop their pets' poop. That means all that waste is left on the ground, where rain washes it into local waterways.

• To keep your pet's poop out of rivers, streams, and oceans, flush it down the toilet or bag it and put it in the trash or a bin like the one in the story.

• You can spread the word in your neighborhood. Ask your local public works department about posting signs that remind people to clean up after their pets. You can also leave a supply of bags at local parks and trails to encourage dog-walkers to scoop the poop.

