



## What is your carbon paw-print?

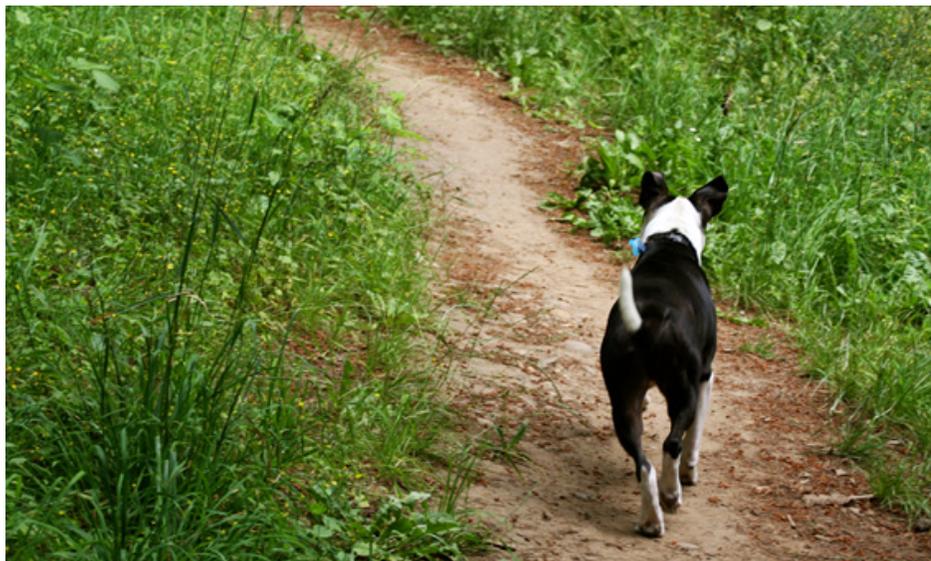


Photo credit: Adrienne Willix

**P**ortland has unofficially become known as one of the more dog-friendly cities in the country. The city contains 33 off-leash areas, a myriad of pet-friendly dining options, even pet massage therapists. However, as dogs are a large part of our community, the products we buy for them can create a lot of unnecessary waste. Luckily, there are many ways you and your pooch can behave more sustainably. Here are a few tips:

**Bath time** — Off-leash parks in Portland can be great fun for you and your pet, but it can leave your pup quite dirty. After a session at the park, chances are good that your dog could use a bath. Next bath time, take a look at what you're using to clean your dog. Since they aren't intended for human use, some of these products can be quite harsh. This is a great opportunity to be a little friendlier to the environment by using grooming and shampoo products that have natural ingredients instead of potent chemicals that are harmful to the environment when washed down the drain. Typically these natural shampoos

can be identified by their listing of ingredients like oatmeal, aloe, and other plant-derived compounds.

**Toys** — As a society, we spend enormous amounts of money on our dogs and a sizeable portion of that goes towards toys. Dog toys can break down quickly and are then thrown away. One of the easiest ways to incorporate sustainable practices into your dog's lifestyle is to use old torn clothes or towels as dog toys. Dogs

love the familiar smell. To a dog, those aren't your gross old jeans, they're a brand new toy that smells like you! Tie together separate pieces of cloth and you have a cheap and easy tug toy. Not feeling creative? There are plenty of companies that make long-lasting dog toys made out of recycled materials. With durable, sustainable toys, we can help reduce the unnecessary consumption and disposal of new toys.

**Food & Treats** — Dog food has an environmental cost, just like ours. This includes packaging and shipping. One way to reduce the environmental production cost of our dog's food is to buy locally for both food and treats. There are many companies in Oregon and the surrounding region that make natural and environmentally friendly kibble for your pup.

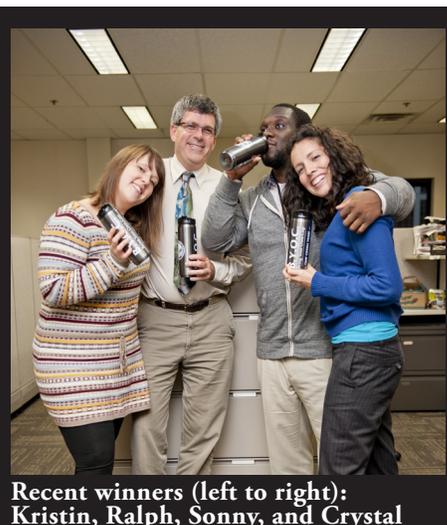
**Scoop Laws** — The law requires that pet waste be picked up and disposed of in a trash bin. Unfortunately, the only option that is typically available at dog parks is plastic bags. Considering the number of dogs in our city, that's a sizeable amount of plastic waste. Try using biodegradable bags. These bags work the same as plastic, but break down after thrown away, and will reduce the amount of plastic you are putting into the landfill. There are even Portland companies that will come to your home, pick up the waste for you, and compost it!

**NEW!** **Green Team Trivia**  
**WIN A COFFEE TUMBLER**  
*First five correct answers win!*

**Question:**  
**Where are the two GoBox drop sites mentioned in last month's Green Matters?**

**Email guesses to:**  
**ethan.cirimo@portlandoregon.gov**

Last month's answer: 10,000 tlders



Recent winners (left to right): Kristin, Ralph, Sonny, and Crystal