

Poop rolling:

Thanks for your question about your dog. Don't dogs do some of the strangest things? Rolling in feces, though, is really very common. Possibly a dog's ancient instinct to mask his scent, which would then enable the animal to sneak up on their prey without detection. Even if your dog does not hunt, she may not like the way that she smells—especially if you've just given her a bath! Or she just likes the smell of the feces.

Unfortunately, the best solution is prevention. But, since the smell of poop is not as pleasing to your family as it is to your dog, we have a few suggestions:

- 1) You might keep her on a leash so that she can't roll in stinky things.
- 2) Pick up any stinky things in the yard before you let her out.
- 3) Teach a really reliable recall using food treats only so the second she looks like she may roll (intense sniffing usually precedes a good roll) then call her back to you for a really tasty treat). For information on teaching a really reliable recall, go to:  
<http://www.shirleychong.com/keepers/Lesson6.html>
- 4) Teach a really reliable OFF or LEAVE IT cue (again using positives only). Cue the behavior BEFORE the pet has started to roll. That means you must keep a watchful eye on your pet and at the FIRST indication of "perfuming", (intense sniffing and positioning the body for a roll) call the pet away for a reward.
- 5) Keep a good bottle of shampoo and towels available both in the car & at home. If using the same shampoo and your dog is rolling in feces right after bathing, she may not like the smell of the shampoo (thus trying to mask it even more!) Try switching to a different shampoo brand to see if that would help.

Good luck!