

INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY NETWORK



Don't Eat (Horse or Other) Poop

Hundreds of mountain bikers and spectators in British Columbia ill from *Campylobacter*

J U L Y 2 5 , 2 0 0 7 I N F O S H E E T

Animal Poop Linked to *Campylobacter* Outbreak

Hundreds of riders in the annual Test of Metal mountain bike race in Squamish, B.C. were stricken with symptoms of *Campylobacter* last month. The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority reported that 18 participants or spectators had confirmed cases of campylobacteriosis

Heavy rains prior to the race apparently littered the trails with animal feces. And the race concluded in a horse ring.

Dr. Paul Martiquet, the chief medical officer for Vancouver Coastal Health, was quoted as saying "**This was an outbreak with a high**

attack rate. Our future advice to the race organizers is to inspect the route prior to the race to ensure it is not littered with animal feces, and not end the race at the horse ring. **If there is any horse poop, they have to remove it.**"



Within days of the race, online mountain bike forums like NSMB.com began buzzing with participants reporting symptoms of *Campylobacter* infection.

Cliff Miller, the event organizer, was cited as saying this is the first time anything like this has happened, and that this year's wet and rainy race day conditions were the worst he's seen, adding, "**I think everybody had fun until they got home.**"



Nasty bacteria and viruses can survive in poop that is introduced into kitchens just like they were on the mountain biking course.

E. coli, *Salmonella*, *Hepatitis A* can all be passed to food from poop on dirty equipment, hands or utensils by cross-contamination.

Keep the (horse) poop out of the kitchen.

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