

Chapter 26

Run away from unpleasant odours

In this era, at least in developed countries, a standard feature in apartments is a flushing toilet, running water and an outlet to the city's sewage system.

However, in past generations this was not the case. One had to go out of one's apartment, even in the middle of a cold night, to attend the wants of nature. There was no running water in the apartment and one had to draw water from an outside well. (Incidentally, according to Rabbi Dovid Ribiat's book on the Laws of Shabbat, people were lenient to allow city eruvin, partly in order to enable one to bring water into the apartment on Shabbat). The cities had none of the modern sewage plants. In Sana Yemen, the sewage went into the streets, a real health hazard! In Venice, the sewage goes straight into the canals in the city.

I recollect the layout of my grandparents' apartment and shop as it was in the first half of the twentieth century. They lived in an apartment which was above their shop. Although there was running water in their apartment, there was no toilet there. It was situated in their basement.

In a book on the Mir Yeshivah when it was situated in Mir, the only indoor toilets in Mir were in the yeshivah building. All the other inhabitants of Mir did not have running water or toilets in their apartments. Water had to be drawn from an outside well and, needless to say, there were no toilets in the apartments.

I am told that when my relations built their apartment in Petach Tiqva in the 1920s, they were the first apartment to have an inside toilet, and people commented that it was unhealthy! I understand that then there was no city sewage system there and therefore people had sewage pits in their gardens which were periodically emptied. Later on, a sewage system was built and one had to pay the Local Council a large sum of money to be connected to it. I recollect in about the 1970s a family there still had a sewage pit in their garden which was periodically emptied, since they did not want to pay the Local Council in order to be connected up to the City's central sewage plant.

When apartments were built for the new immigrants from the Arab countries in the development town of Netivot in the Negev, toilets were in outhouses, and it was only in about the 1960s they were incorporated in the apartments themselves.

I was a member of Mitnachalei Hevron between the years 1968-1971. We were situated in the Military Compound in Hevron, which had been built by the British. The toilets were of the style of the Third World, namely one had to squat to use them. Fortunately, there was running water to flush them. However, there was a problem. On many occasions one turned on the taps but no water came out, and therefore one had to draw water from a well which was situated in the courtyard of the Military Compound. The toilets by the Cave of Machpelah were also of this design. It is reported that in Manchester England, there are some public facilities with such toilets, since immigrants from Third World countries prefer them.

On one occasion a woman needed to use the Mikveh which had been built in the Military Compound for the use of the mitnachalim. However, that very night, the taps were dry. I heard that two people had spent hour after hour carrying water from the well to the Mikveh until the required height of water in the Mikveh had been reached.

On another occasion the day before erev Yom Kippur, the Mikveh was empty and there was no water in the taps. For men, erev Yom Kippur is the most popular day in the year for them to use the Mikveh. I therefore went to speak to the appropriate military official in the Military Compound. He called the Jewish person whose job it was to be the interpreter from Hebrew to Arabic and vice versa, and he contacted the Hebron Municipality to instruct them to turn on the water which they then immediately did.

The sewage system in Hevron dated back from the times of the Turks and the pipes were very narrow which resulted in them clogging up. In addition, the water pipes were very old, and it is said that as a result, half the water went to waste.

There was once, an anti-Israel television programme showing on the one hand how the Arabs in Hevron had no water, whilst at the same time the residents of Kiryat Arba were happily swimming in their swimming pool. What was not mentioned was that the water in Kiryat Arba came from a different source from that of Hevron's, and that due to the Turkish era old pipes, half the water in Hevron went to waste.

I was living in Bet Hadassah at the beginning of the 1980s, which was prior to the renovations which began in the mid-1980s. Even at that period there were cuts in the water which was supplied by the Hevron Arab municipality. In such cases, we ordered tanks of water to fill our tanks. On one of the years when I was there, Rosh Hashanah was on Thursday and

Friday, and needless to add, Shabbat immediately followed. We were worried that should the water be cut off during those three days, it would be extremely uncomfortable. We therefore asked a Rabbi whether in such a case, an Arab could bring along a tank of water. We were told that on Rosh Hashanah, but not on Shabbat, an Arab could do so. Fortunately, this was not necessary, since the Military Governor instructed the Hebron Municipality to ensure that the water was not cut off during these three days.

From what is written above, one can understand why the Shulchan Aruch devotes a large number of chapters to what occurred in earlier days with regards to the lack of toilet facilities and sewage disposal, and of faeces and urine of humans (including babies) and animals, which might well be found in a public place, or worse still in a Shul.

Even today, it has been known for a baby's soiled diaper to fall off in such a place, or for a person's dog to defecate in the street. A responsible person would pick up and dispose of such a diaper, and when taking their dog for a walk, take a plastic bag to pick up such faeces.

Today, almost 100 per cent of apartments have as one (or more) of their rooms a toilet, and thus one does not have to run outside the apartment any time one needs it. However, a problem could arise during the Festival of Sukkot if one's sukkah is a distance from one's house and one needs the toilet facilities during the night. It is not tzanua to go outside the sukkah into the public area with one's pyjamas, and so one would have to get dressed first. There are in fact discussions between the Rabbis, if one can have a chamber pot in the sukkah in order to urinate.

Strange as it may sound, there are still today many shops in Jerusalem (and probably other locations as well) where there is no toilet in the shop. Obviously, those working in the shop will need this facility during the course of the day, and they therefore have to leave the shop and find a nearby toilet.

It was towards the beginning of the year 2016 that I decided to study in depth the Shulchan Aruch on this subject and try and give the scientific explanations of the various laws stated there.

A major part of this research was to understand scientifically how and why odours from a particular source reach a person's nose, and of the intensity of the odours. I found several scientific laws which mathematically explained this. I summarised this, namely that the intensity of an odour

depended on the concentration of the odorous parts, and that the further one goes from the source of the odour, the lower will be its intensity.

I found that the unpleasant nature of the odour, or indeed of no odour at all, especially in the case of animals, depended on diet. Studies showed that the odour of the faeces of animals who were vegetarian was almost absent, and as a result, the rules regarding distancing from such faeces when davening do not apply.

The Talmud Yerushalmi speaks about the faeces and urine of a donkey who had come in from a journey. To get a scientific explanation, I sent e-mails to experts on donkeys and received replies giving scientific explanations which explained this Yerushalmi.

I also wrote to a number of experts regarding the odour of pigs' faeces. Some of them were able to give me some information on the subject, including referring me to some papers which had been written on the subject.

To understand scientifically why there are no restrictions on davening besides dry human faeces, I submitted a question to Wikipedia Reference Desk and received an explanation

As with other research which I have performed, I received a large amount of information from the internet, including from the website HebrewBooks. I also utilized a number of articles found in encyclopedias such as Britannica. However, since in academic circles, Wikipedia Encyclopedia is often frowned upon, I therefore utilised scholarly papers instead of Wikipedia.

I discussed at some length the food given to babies today, quoting Rabbinical sources and various scientific sources. One source spoke about giving babies desiccated steak at the age of 1 -3 weeks old!

Needless to say, as with all research, I downloaded much material which later did not form part of my paper.

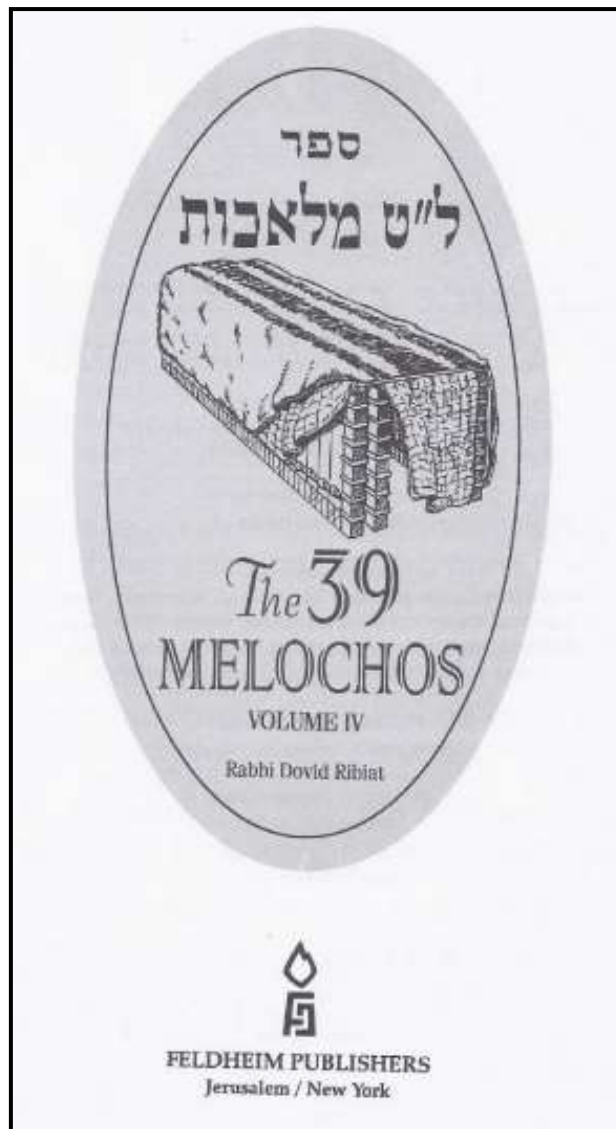
Towards the beginning of 2016, I wrote up this paper in English. Then, due to the pressure of other research, I left this paper intending to continue with it in the near future! I keep putting this off and it was only in the summer of 2019, that I decided that I must finish this paper. I thus searched on my computer to find where I had stored it, and when I found it, I was surprised to find that I had almost finished the draft paper. There were just a few areas which I needed to complete.

I also had to then put in the footnotes, which is quite a big job! Having done that, I made a print out of the draft and then checked it line by line, and where necessary put in corrections.

Recently, I started putting appropriate pictures on my cover page. For obvious reasons I could not put pictures of a number of the subjects I had discussed in this paper. I was therefore limited to a picture of a baby and of some the animals mentioned in the paper. These I found on the internet and I copied them onto my cover page electronically, and then carefully arranged them there. I should mention that they were in colour which made the cover page more attractive.

As with other things I have written, I then made photocopies of the appropriate extracts of the source material. This did not include source material from books found almost everywhere, such as Talmud, Shulchan Aruch, Mishnah Berurah, etc.

A pdf was then made combining the cover page, the text of the paper and the photocopies of the source material, and it was then put on my website.



b-2) City-wide Eruvin today

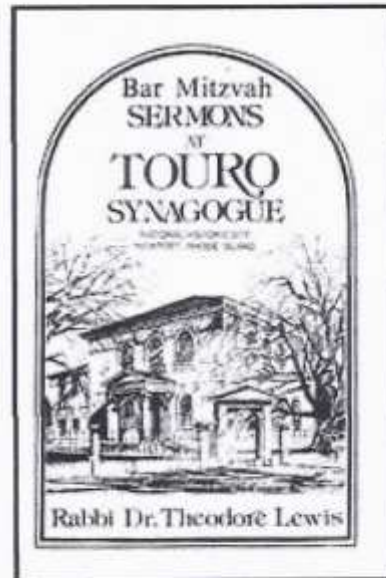
One must be aware that social and economic conditions in that period were much different from those of today. An Eruv in prewar Europe was almost an essential need, and its absence posed severe hardships for most people.

For example, water had to be drawn from wells situated a distance from most homes. Many families did not have adequate facilities for storing enough water for their Shabbos needs. Also, many families did not have ovens of their own suitable for keeping food warm on Shabbos, and had to rely upon the use of the local baker's oven, a distance away.

One must remember that this was an age when electricity, refrigeration, and indoor plumbing were unheard of in many places. Individual homes were simply not as self sufficient then as they are today. It was therefore urgent to devise a Halachically viable means whereby people could bring vital necessities permissibly from one place to another. Some of the lenient Halachic rulings that were valid and acceptable for those times and conditions cannot be equally justified in our day and age.

Remembrances of Mir Yeshiva

Rabbi Dr. Theodore Lewis was a student at the Mir Yeshiva from 1935 to 1938. In the introductory section of his book : *Bar Mitzvah Sermons at Touro Synagogue*, Rabbi Lewis describes Mir and the Yeshiva, as well as experiences of students and townspeople in the last years before the war. Rabbi Lewis was kind enough to permit a portion of his book to be reproduced below. (1999)



Every week, a peasant woman would come to pick up our laundry and return it a few days later, clean and pressed. The students who came from other countries, came from homes where they had all the modern amenities, found it difficult and inconvenient, not to have indoor toilets. Instead, there were outhouses in the back of the homes. This became very inconvenient in the cold, winter months. To the best of my recollection, the Yeshiva had the only modern, indoor toilets in the region.

As there was no indoor plumbing in the homes, water was unavailable from the faucet. Instead, water had to be transported, physically, in buckets from a well in the center of the town. Some poor Jews eked out a meagre livelihood by filling two buckets of water at the well and carrying them yoke-wise and selling the water to the house owners. There were two doctors and a dentist in Mir. They provided care for the townspeople and Yeshiva students. Operations and serious illnesses were referred to hospitals and specialists in larger cities. Prescriptions were compounded at a drug store in the town

Three Years in a Military Compound

Reminiscences of a Hebron Settler

by

Chaim Simons

Volume 2 of my autobiography

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**Kiryat Arba, Israel
Elul 5763 - September 2003**

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There were often water stoppages in Hebron and this could be serious if one needed to fill the Mikva. On one occasion this occurred on the day before erev Yom Kippur. We knew that a lot of men would want to use the Mikva on erev Yom Kippur - and the Mikva was empty. I therefore went to one of the officials of the Military Government and informed him of the problem. He then called for Chai Sa'adia who worked there as the interpreter to Arabic, and the latter telephoned to the Arab Hebron Municipality and told them to give us water. Within a few minutes the water was restored and the Mikva duly filled.

One evening there was a water stoppage - and that night a woman needed to use the Mikva. I can't remember whether at the time the Mikva was completely empty or partially filled. That night Meir and Shoshana Peretz spent hours upon hours filling a commercial size saucepan with water from the well situated in the Memshal and carting it over to the Mikva. I don't know how many journeys that had to make but it was a very very large number indeed. In the middle of the night they woke me up to ask whether it was sufficient for the water level to be at the bottom of the hole joining the Mikva with the pit or if it had to cover the entire hole. I suggested that they telephone Rabbi Zacks who was far more competent to answer this question than I was.



Chaim Simons <chaimsimons@gmail.com>

Donkey Sanctuary Enquiry

2 messages

Faith Burden <faith.burden@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>
To: "chaimsimons@gmail.com" <chaimsimons@gmail.com>
Cc: Nikki Stradling <nikki.stradling@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>

Wed, Feb 24, 2016 at 2:59 PM

Dear Dr Simons,

Thank you for your enquiry and compliments on the work carried out by our organisation. I will try to do my best to answer your questions from my experience of working donkeys and the physiology which may lie behind such issues.

So in answer to your questions:

1/. Soft faeces of a donkey may smell more for a number of reasons, the main reasons are likely to be the increase in dissipation of molecules associated with 'smell' when faeces are soft - much of the olfactory system relies on vapours and the transference of smell through liquid droplets which would obviously occur more readily when the faeces is more liquid. There may also be issues relating to why the faeces are soft, most donkey droppings are relatively hard in texture, the donkey is adapted to desert conditions and is extremely good at water partitioning and removal of precious water during digestion leading to a normal firm textured dung. Soft and smelly dung can often indicate a digestive upset which may be caused by an infection or ingestion of poor quality or unsuitable feed. Finally soft, smelly dung can be an indicator of stress in donkeys, stress appears to increase digestive transit time so that feed is not fully digested and water is not withdrawn from the dung before passing.

2/. Coming in from a journey would indicate that the donkey has been working or exercising, perhaps for a long period of time? Again donkeys are extremely efficient at preserving water and will concentrate their urine to prevent loss of valuable water. When urine becomes concentrated the smell does indeed increase (as does the darkness and opacity of the urine). This may be an indication that the animal is dehydrated perhaps?

I hope this is useful? It strikes me that what you describe are possibly indicators that the donkey referred to has had a long journey with some associated digestive upset (different feed, poor quality feed) or stress and has had little access to water. Perhaps this makes sense in the context of the text?

Good luck with the remainder of your research.

Best wishes,
Faith

Dr Faith Burden
Head of Research and Pathology
The Donkey Sanctuary
<http://research.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>

Chaim Simons <chaimsimons@gmail.com>
To: Faith Burden <faith.burden@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>

Thu, Feb 25, 2016 at 11:02 AM

Dear Dr. Burden

Thank you for your e-mail and detailed reply to my questions, for which I am most grateful. The information will be very helpful in my research.

I wish your organisation continued success in its excellent work.

Best regards

Chaim Simons



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Dear Dr Simons

Thank you for your message, I have passed it on to my director.

Kind Regards

Lucy Margetts

Administrator

—Original Message—

From: Dr. Chaim Simons [mailto:chaimsimons@gmail.com]

Sent: 07 February 2016 10:36

To: info@vetwork.org.uk

Subject: Vetwork UK Site Visitor Message

Dear Dr. Hadrill

I read in an ancient text (Talmud Yerushalmi) that the smell of the soft feces and the urine of a donkey which has come in from a journey is strong.

On this subject, I would like to ask a couple of questions and would be grateful if you could please supply me with the answers.

1. Why is the smell of soft feces of a donkey stronger than when the feces are hard?
2. Why should coming in from a journey make both the feces and the urine of a donkey have a stronger smell than usual?

With thanks and best regards

Dr. Chaim Simons

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Chaim Simons <chaimsims@gmail.com>

Your enquiry re donkeys

3 messages

Hadrill, David (FAOMM) <David.Hadrill@fao.org>
To: "chaimsims@gmail.com" <chaimsims@gmail.com>
Cc: Lucy Margetts <lucy.margetts@bopenworld.com>

Wed, Feb 24, 2016 at 10:00 AM

Dear Dr Simons,

Please accept apologies for slow reply to your email.

I suspect there are straightforward, scientific answers to your queries, such as:

- Soft faeces smell more strongly because some associated odours are water soluble and will evaporate more from wetter faeces;
- A donkey that has been on a long journey may be dehydrated. A dehydrated animal has more concentrated urine. Where odiferous compounds are concentrated, the smell will be stronger.
- If a long journey has resulted in metabolism of biochemical products of labour, these may be excreted in faeces and urine.

These responses are my scientific guesses. A real donkey expert is Dr Stephen Blakeway who you could contact via <http://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>

Out of interest, what is the nationality of the text you refer to? And what is the purpose of its analysis of donkey excreta?

Best regards,

David

Dr David Hadrill

FAO Myanmar ECTAD Country Team Leader

(ECTAD, Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases)

Myanmar mobile: +65 97 8823 0983

Chaim Simons <chaimsims@gmail.com>
To: "Hadrill, David (FAOMM)" <David.Hadrill@fao.org>

Wed, Feb 24, 2016 at 12:59 PM

Dear Dr. Hadrill

Thank you for your reply, for which I am most grateful.

I recently also sent my question to "The Donkey Sanctuary" (although I did not know the name Dr. Stephen Blakeway) but I have not yet received a reply

The Talmud Yerushalmi is a Rabbinic text which was written in Israel about 1,500 years ago. It mentions the prohibition of praying in the vicinity of feces and urine. It gives as a specific example the soft faeces and the urine of a donkey that has come in from a journey, which it states has a strong odour. My interest is why under such conditions the odour is stronger than usual.

Best regards

Chaim
[Quoted text hidden]

Chaim Simons <chaimsims@gmail.com>
To: "Hadrill, David (FAOMM)" <David.Hadrill@fao.org>

Thu, Feb 25, 2016 at 11:08 AM

Dear Dr. Hadrill

Just to let you know that a few hours after receiving your last e-mail, I received a detailed reply to my questions by Dr. Falih Burden of "The Donkey Sanctuary".

Best regards

Chaim

Odor of pigs' feces

3 messages

Chaim Simons <chaimsimons@gmail.com>
To: wpowers@msu.edu

Tue, Mar 29, 2016 at 5:50 PM

Dear Professor Powers

I found your material on the internet regarding the odor of pigs' feces very interesting and informative.

I am doing some research which includes the intensity of the odor of pigs' feces and I can see that one of the factors controlling the intensity of the odor of the pigs' feces is the food consumed by the pigs. I would therefore be grateful if you could please answer the following questions on this subject

Which specific food items consumed by a pig would result in feces whose odor was:

- (i) weak (or even odorless)?
- (ii) very strong?

With thanks and best regards.

Dr. Chaim Simons

Powers-Schilling, Wendy <wpowers@anr.msu.edu>
To: Chaim Simons <chaimsimons@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 29, 2016 at 6:02 PM

Dear Chaim,

Unfortunately there is not any evidence that a diet exists to produce weak or odorless manure. However, many, if not most, odorants are protein metabolites. In addition, things like peppermint or garlic (strong in odor themselves) do result in a change in odor character that could be measured as a stronger odor.

I hope this helps.

Regards,

Wendy

[Quoted text hidden]

Chaim Simons <chaimsimons@gmail.com>
To: "Powers-Schilling, Wendy" <wpowers@anr.msu.edu>

Tue, Mar 29, 2016 at 9:15 PM

Dear Professor Powers

Thank you for your e-mail and the information in it, for which I am grateful, and I feel sure sure that it will useful in my research.

Best regards

Chaim Simons

Odor of pigs' feces

5 messages

Chaim Simons <chaimsimons@gmail.com>
To: Steven.Trabue@ars.usda.gov

Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 7:35 AM

Dear Dr. Trabue

Dr. Jacek Koziel suggested that I contact you.

I am doing some research which includes the intensity of the odor of pigs' feces and I can see that one of the factors controlling the intensity of the odor of the pigs' feces is the food consumed by the pigs. I would therefore be grateful if you could please answer the following questions on this subject

Which specific food items consumed by a pig would result in feces whose odor was:

- (i) weak (or even odorless)?
- (ii) very strong?

With thanks and best regards.

Dr. Chaim Simons

Trabue, Steven <Steven.Trabue@ars.usda.gov>
To: Chaim Simons <chaimsimons@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 5:29 PM

Dear Dr. Simons,

We think we understand the source of the odorants from animal diets, but how the sources interact is another thing. You have three main nutrient inputs in to animal diets: 1) energy (i.e., carbohydrates, fiber, starch non-starch polysaccharides, etc.); 2) crude protein (CP) i.e. (amino acids); 3) minerals. Different sources of energy will have different digestibility and they will change the physical chemical properties of the manure changing odor. Same goes for crude protein in terms of digestibility (some protein material is digestibility is greater than others) and some CP sources may be enriched for S proteins. All these factors play into creating a diet. I would focus on digestibility for if everything is digested then nothing goes to waste and no odor.

A great paper on odor and relation to diet is a review paper. Le et al. 2005 Odour from animal production facilities: Its relationship to diet. Nutr. Res Rev. 18:3-30. I have attached this file to the email.

Kind Regards,

Steve

Steven Trabue
Research Chemist
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Email: steven.trabue@ars.usda.gov

Wikipedia Reference Desk - Science

Odors emitted by the Feces and Urine of Mammals and Birds^[edit]

Where can I find material on the intensity of odors emitted by the feces and by the urine of various mammals and birds? Thank you. Simonschaim (talk) 10:49, 7 February 2016 (UTC)

We don't have an article specifically on this topic (although Category:Feces might prove useful). It should be covered in any general work on woodcraft, and a web search on animal-specific terms ("bear scat", "fox scat", etc) will usually come up with the appropriate details. Tevildo (talk) 12:03, 7 February 2016 (UTC)

Bile contributes to the smell of feces. StuRat (talk) 18:13, 7 February 2016 (UTC)

This is a tough one. I mean... we all know from experience how much it can vary based on diet. Beyond that, intestinal microflora. If you take some lab animals and do a poo sniff-off, mostly you've learned what the lab techs are feeding the animals. I'd be wary of general statements. Wnt (talk) 18:23, 7 February 2016 (UTC)

It might be difficult to find information on the intensity per se, but articles the OP might want to look at include Pheromone, Vomer nasal organ and Flehmen. DrChrissy ^(talk) 18:31, 7 February 2016 (UTC)

As a long-time pet owner, I would point out that the intensity and nature of the smell of animal pee depends on its age and storage condition. Cat urine on cat litter which is less than a day old is different from cat urine deposited on a plastic bag or piece of fabric on the floor behind a couch which is not discovered for a week. The question seems like a readily quantifiable one. It would be surprising if no data had been collected and published. Subjects could give subjective ratings of odor strength for standardized samples under well defined experimental conditions, and we could learn the relative intensity of either a constant volume of parakeet/lizard/hamster/cat/rattlesnake/dog/human/deer/lion/bear/dolphin/horse/hippopotamus/elephant/whale urine or feces, or the relative subjective odor strength of a normal deposit of said substances. Edison (talk) 21:19, 7 February 2016 (UTC)

Skatole is responsible for much fecal odor, and the term may help you find more quantitative assessments. SemanticMantis (talk) 15:44, 8 February 2016 (UTC)

Thank you to all those who supplied me with answers. Simonschaim (talk) 11:44, 10 February 2016 (UTC)

Wikipedia Reference Desk - Science

Quantitative analysis of gases producing odors in feces of humans, animals and birds^[edit]

The chemical composition of feces of humans, animals and birds could vary as a result of, (for example), changes in diet. The gases which produce the odors in such feces comprise a number of sulfides, skatole and indole. My question concerns a quantitative analysis of the proportion of each of these sulfides, skatole and indole in the gases causing the odor in the feces. Would the results of such a quantitative analysis vary with the differing chemical compositions of faces caused by, (for example), changes in diet, or would it be independent of the chemical composition of the feces? *Simonschaim (talk) 12:21, 16 February 2016 (UTC)*

That's careful way of asking why, how, and to what extent shit stinks, right? Very interesting stuff, and relevant to a variety of medical, social, and public safety concerns. I found a large assortment of articles via google scholar, searching various things like / [skatole/indole] fecal analysis quantitative/. I think it's fairly obvious that the quantity of gasses changes based on fecal composition. Other factors include the metabolome and gut bacteria populations. Anyway, here's a selection of freely-accessible studies that will give you some of the information that you seek, using mass spectrometry, gas chromatography, and other quantitative methods, for humans and pigs: [4] [5] [6] [7]. The last one in particular is probably a good place to start. *SemanticMantis (talk) 15:52, 16 February 2016 (UTC)*

Thank you SemanticMantis for you dtailed answer for which I am most grateful. Although the TOTAL concentration of the gaseous mixture which causes the odor in feces is dependent on the chemical composition of the feces, the point I am interested in is, whether the RELATIVE percentages of the various sulfides, skatole and indole in the gaseous mixture causing the odor depends on the chemical composition of the feces, or is it a CONSTANT irrespective of the chemical composition of the feces — *Preceding unsigned comment added*

by Simonschaim (talk • contribs) 09:00, 17 February 2016 (UTC)

You're welcome. As for your follow up, here's one more article that has data [8] showing that changes in diet change the amount of at least one gas. It seems WP:OR to me that the relative concentrations must change in general -- what mechanisms would keep them constant? A good way to look in to this would be to use google scholar's "cited by" links. For example my last link above on "Malodorous Volatile Substances" has been cited 41 times, and many of those papers will have data related to your interests. *SemanticMantis (talk) 14:44, 17 February 2016 (UTC)*

Thank you again. Although it has been shown that a diet change can change the concentration of one gas in the feces, is it not possible that the concentration of the other gases in the feces will change in the same proportion as this one gas?*Simonschaim (talk) 12:40, 18 February 2016 (UTC)*

March 2^[edit]

Odor of Human Feces^[edit]

My question concerns human feces which have been left standing until they are dry, and maybe have even crumbled. Do such dry human feces still have an odor, and if so how does the intensity of the odor compare with the intensity of the odor of fresh human feces, and what is the reason for such a change in the intensity of the odor. Thank you.[Simonschaim](#) ([talk](#)) 08:46, 2 March 2016 (UTC)

Did the references provided in response to your [recent question on the subject](#) help your research? [AllBestFaith](#) ([talk](#)) 12:12, 2 March 2016 (UTC)

Thank you. Yes it did help. What I am asking now is a different point and would be grateful if someone could please answer it. [Simonschaim](#) ([talk](#)) 13:55, 2 March 2016 (UTC)

Our articles [Paleofeces](#) and [Coprolite](#) do not address this question directly, but both contain links and references to external articles that might. {The poster formerly known as 87.81.230.195} [185.74.232.130](#) ([talk](#)) 14:43, 2 March 2016 (UTC)

Thank you. However all the references seem to deal with very ancient feces, and I am interested in feces about a week old. [Simonschaim](#) ([talk](#)) 12:38, 3 March 2016 (UTC)

You may be interested in the work of [Henry Moule](#). Rapid desiccation due to his dry earth formulation stopped microbial action very quickly and the thus no unpleasant odor issued fourth.--[Aspro](#) ([talk](#)) 19:52, 5 March 2016 (UTC)

[Simonschaim](#), someone once pooped on the floor in my building. It was near the roof so it decomposed I don't know how long until I saw it. It was absolutely desiccated (I think there was powder it was so crumbly dry) and full of disgustingly squirming maggots. It stunk horribly. Different temperatures and humidities and amounts of ultraviolet light etc. might cause different effects. [Sagittarian Milky Way](#) ([talk](#)) 01:40, 6 March 2016 (UTC)

Thank you. [Simonschaim](#) ([talk](#)) 05:27, 6 March 2016 (UTC)