

POOP for BREAKFAST

WHY SOME
ANIMALS EAT IT



SARA
LEVINE

illustrated by
FLORENCE
WEISER

For my dad.

With special thanks to Oliver and Matthew, whose keen observations and questions gave me the idea for this book. —S.L.

For my niece Alice, so curious to know everything, even more when it's funny. —F.W.

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THE SCOOP ON POOP

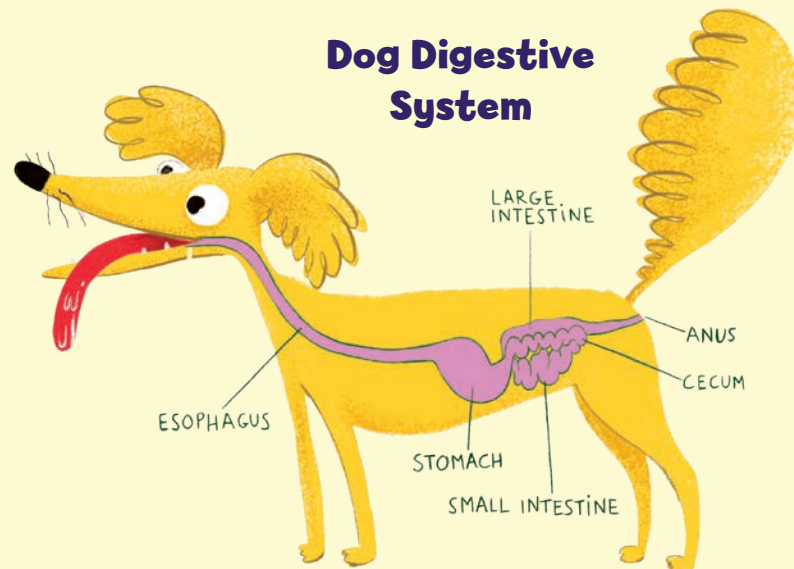
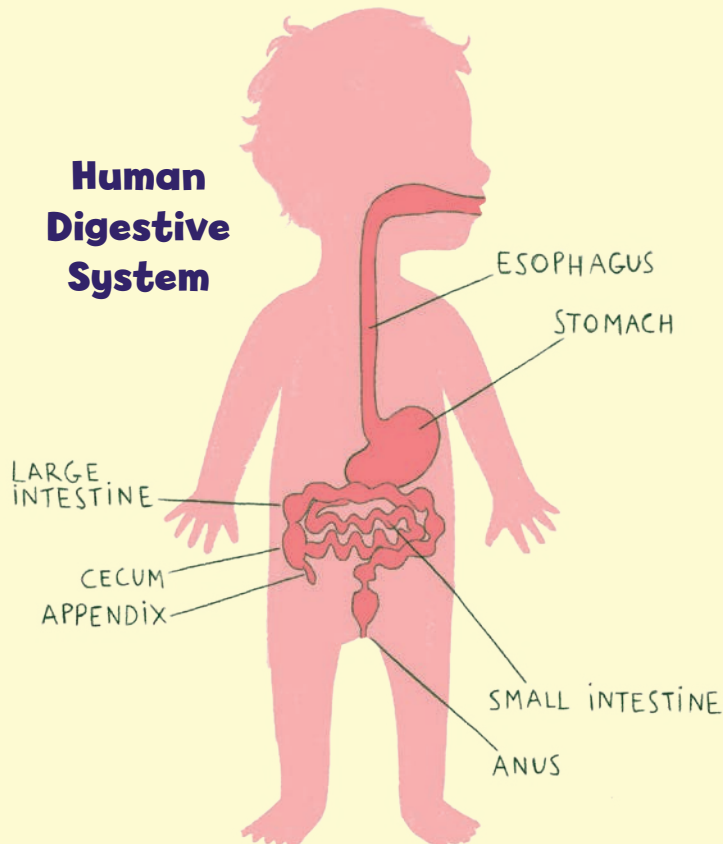
What exactly is poop anyway? It's the stuff that comes out of the anus, the end of the digestive tract.

How is it formed? Think of the digestive tract as a tube that's folded up in certain places. It looks different in different types of animals, but it is basically one long tube. Food goes in the mouth, and the body works on it as it goes through the tube. In some places along the tube, stuff comes in to break the food down into smaller bits. In other places along the tube, the small bits get taken out of the tube and enter into the rest of the body. These nutrients give all the cells in the body the energy they need to do their jobs. What's left over at the end of the trip? That's the poop. (Plus, some helpful bacteria along for the ride that got picked up where they live and help out with digestion.)

So then, what is pee? Pee is made up of toxic stuff in the blood plus extra water the body doesn't need. These things are filtered out of the body by kidneys. Pee gets stored in an organ called a bladder, and when it's time to pee, it comes out of a tiny hole called the urethra.

Do most animals poop and pee? Yes.

Do all animals have an anus and a urethra? No, not all of them. Birds have just one opening for poop and pee (and for laying eggs too). This hole is called a cloaca. Reptiles, amphibians, and some mammals, such as the platypus, have a cloaca too.



BE A POOP DETECTIVE

Did you know that you can tell if poop is made by a mammal that eats some meat or an animal that eats only plants? It's true! You just need to look at the shape of it. Meat-eater poop comes out larger and is irregularly shaped. Plant-only-eater poop is formed into small round or oval bits.



RABBIT



DEER



DOG

In birds, the poop and the pee come out together in one loose dropping. The white part is the pee. The brown part is the poop.



GOAT



HUMAN



CAT



BIRD

BY ANY OTHER NAME

Here are some synonyms for poop: feces, scat, bowel movement, crap, number two, doo-doo, doody, turd, dung.

Can you think of more? I bet you can!

FURTHER READING

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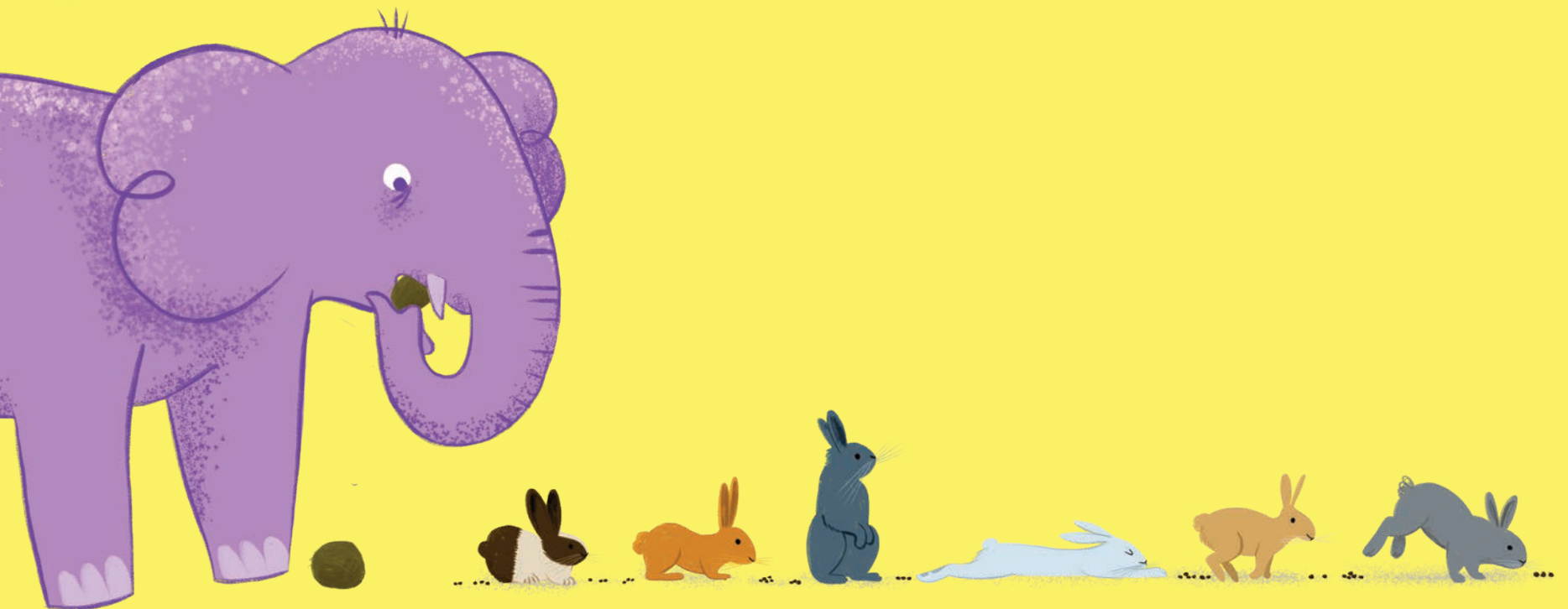
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When **SARA LEVINE** was a child, her family played games in the car to pass the time. One favorite was taking turns thinking of synonyms for poop (or other slightly taboo words) until someone could not come up with a new one and was “out.” This training, as well as her experience as a veterinarian, an educator, and an award-winning author of STEM-focused books for children, uniquely qualified her to write this book. She lives in New England with her two dogs, who sometimes eat things for breakfast she’d prefer they didn’t. Visit her online at www.saralevinebooks.com.

FLORENCE WEISER is a French illustrator currently based in rainy Belgium. She has loved to draw since she was a child growing up in Luxembourg. She now lives and works surrounded by a huge garden filled with plants and wild animals, where she gathers most of her inspiration. Find more of her work at www.florenceweiser.com.



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