



Puppy Slobber Is Good for You

Dirt and germs may not be so bad for babies, after all. Several studies over the past 20 years have found that children who grow up with dogs have lower rates of asthma, obesity, and other health problems. It seems that the Western world's obsession with dirt-free cleanliness and people's tendency to stay indoors is partially behind rising rates of allergies and autoimmune diseases.

The cleanliness crusade, especially the antibacterial fetish, overlooks the fact that God created bacteria as an integral part of the health of our bodies. It's not really a dog-eat-dog world after all.

God made us to share the same world with animals. Children who grow up with dogs and other pets tend to have a more diverse community of gut bacteria.

Evolutionary researchers propose an alternative view: humans and dogs have been living together for so long that we have become dependent on each other, including for a healthy range of gut bacteria.

This makeshift interpretation misses the mark. God designed life as a community. We need each other, from the microbes that help our bodies function to the world around us that provides food and clothing. The intricate interplay of living organisms clearly points to the Creator's design. ■

Article from Answers Magazine
September-October 2017, Vol. 12 No. 5