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I write about consumer technology: the good, the bad and the ugly.
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For The Dog Owner Who Has Everything -- An Electronic Pooper Scooper



I was intrigued when the PR person for Auggiedog offered me a chance to try out the company's electronic pooper-scooper. My dog Yuri does what all dogs do and - like millions of dog owners around the world - it's my job to clean up after him. And maybe this would be the perfect present for all the other dog carers on my holiday gift list.

The promotional video (see below) makes the Auggiedog look like an easy solution to this age-old problem but — after trying it — I'm not sure it's really worth the trouble, let alone the 149 price tag.

The device is kind of a vacuum cleaner for dog poop. You hold it down over the stuff you're trying to get rid of, pull a trigger and it sucks it into its holding area. You then unload the poop into a trash can or wherever else you want to put it and stick the device into its cleaning station. It comes with a bottle of cleaning fluid that's said to be 100% biodegradable and completely safe for septic systems, but it costs \$12.95 to replace (you can use other types of cleaning fluid) so there is an ongoing cost of using this thing. The cleaning process got rid of most of the stuff but left a little behind – just enough to be stinky.

It mostly worked though it did leave a bit of smushy stuff when I used it to remove fresh poop. It worked great with old dried up poop. You have to remember to put it into collection mode. The other option — the mode you use to eject the poop — causes it to make a mess.

I used it in my backyard but it's also billed for use on walks and — as a bonus — you can screw a cap on it and use it as a walking stick.



Personally, I'm going to stick with that shovel and old

fashioned manual pooper-scooper we've been using since Yuri was a puppy along with those trusty plastic bags when we go for walks. But if you want to pay \$149 for an automated way to carry out to this dirty job, you can order one <u>here</u>.

Promotional Auggiedog video

