



Dog and Pool Safety: Keeping Your Pup Safe Around Water

As the weather warms up, poolside fun can be a great way for you and your dog to cool off and enjoy some quality time together. However, it's crucial to prioritize safety. Here are essential tips for dog and pool safety, whether your pup is an experienced swimmer or just dipping their paws in for the first time.

1. Supervision Is Key

Never leave your dog unsupervised around the pool. Even strong swimmers can become tired or disoriented. Always keep an eye on your pup, just as you would with a small child. Supervision is the first and most important rule for pool safety.

2. Teach Pool Entry and Exit Points

Help your dog understand how to safely get in and out of the pool. If you need help we are here for you! It is important to do this training without scaring the dog. Show them the stairs or a ramp specifically designed for dogs. Practice this multiple times to build their confidence and muscle memory. Having a clearly marked exit point reduces the risk of worry if they need to get out quickly.

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3. Use a Canine Life Vest

For dogs that are new to swimming or not natural swimmers, a well-fitted canine life vest is a must. Look for one with handles on the back to make it easy to lift your dog out of the water if needed. Even experienced swimmers can benefit from a life vest during extended water play.

4. Create Positive Pool Experiences

Introduce your dog to the pool gradually. Start with shallow water and let them explore at their own pace. Use toys, treats, and lots of encouragement to make the experience enjoyable. Forcing a dog into the water can create fear or anxiety, so always go at their comfort level. Use consent testing or hire a professional to avoid problems.



5. Prevent Poolside Hazards

Secure pool covers and make sure your dog can't access the pool when unsupervised. Pool chemicals can be toxic if ingested, so always keep cleaning supplies and chemicals out of reach.

6. Watch for Signs of Fatigue

Swimming is a great workout, but it can tire your dog out quickly. Keep sessions short, and watch for signs of exhaustion such as heavy panting or slowing down. Give them plenty of breaks and access to fresh water to stay hydrated.

7. Be Aware of Limp Tail Syndrome

Limp tail, also known as swimmer's tail, can occur when a dog swims too much or exerts itself in cold water. This condition is temporary but can be painful. To prevent it, limit swimming sessions and gradually increase activity over time. Exercise caution with cold water.



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8. Avoid Water Poisoning

Dogs can accidentally gulp too much water while swimming, which can lead to water poisoning, which is potentially fatal. This condition occurs when the balance of electrolytes in their body becomes disrupted. To minimize this risk, work with a coach to select a toy that is the right size for your dog, reducing the chances of excessive water intake during play. Also be sure to take your dog out of the water every ten minutes cueing them to urinate to avoid water retention.

9. Rinse and Dry Off After Swimming

After pool time, rinse your dog with clean water to remove chlorine or other chemicals. Dry them off thoroughly, especially their ears, to prevent irritation or infections.

10. Know Basic Water Emergency Steps

Familiarize yourself with canine CPR and first aid. Accidents can happen, and being prepared could save your dog's life. Consider taking a pet CPR and first aid class to feel confident in emergency situations. Courteous Canine, Inc. routinely hosts Pet First Aid classes taught by professional vet techs.

Bonus Tip: Training Recall Near Water

A strong recall cue can be a lifesaver around water. Practice calling your dog away from distractions to ensure they'll respond even in exciting situations. Again, if you need help, we are here for you! If you call them, they will come if you set up an ideal training plan.





By following these tips, you can ensure that pool time remains a safe and enjoyable experience for both you and your dog. Remember, safety is a shared responsibility—when you're prepared, your dog can fully enjoy the splash-tastic fun!

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Results the FUN way!

If you're ready for some fun pool adventures with your dog, email us at LoveDogs@CourteousCanine.com!

