



POOL SAFETY TIPS

For Your Dog

Keeping your dog cool during the summer months is extremely important to prevent heatstroke, dehydration or even death. Dogs not only need to drink plenty of water to keep cool-many of them like to swim in it as well! While it is a great form of exercise and will help keep Fido from overheating, many dogs drown each year from pool accidents that could have been avoided by following these tips, provided by Bark Busters:



Make sure your dog knows how and where to get out of your pool safely. If a dog falls into a river or lake, they will turn around and try to get out at the point where they fell in-an instinctive action that may cause drowning in a suburban swimming pool.

To teach your dog how to exit a pool:

- 1) Attach a recall lead to their collar.
- 2) Gently place your dog into the pool from the steps. They will instinctively turn around and get out from the point of entry-the steps. Repeat this several times.
- 3) Once your dog realises that they can scramble out via the steps, move to the other sides of the pool and again gently place your dog into the pool. Use the recall lead to guide them to the step area, giving as little help as necessary to them.

Keep an eye on your dog(s) while they are in the pool, and watch for exhaustion.

Swimming can be very tiring for a dog! Just like many dogs will chase a ball or Frisbee again and again until they nearly collapse, many dogs will continue swimming without any thought as to how tired they are. And unlike chasing a ball on land, they have no solid ground on which to rest.

Conduct pool safety in all weather, hot and cold, if your dog has year-round access to the pool area.

Try to keep the pool's water level as full as possible; as a dog has a much greater chance of being able to get out the closer the water level is to dry land.

Remember that not all dogs like or know how to swim!

If your dog appears eager to give swimming a try, let them get used to it gradually. Refrain from throwing a nervous, inexperienced swimmer into the water.

With a little planning and forethought, you can help your dog swim without incident in almost any environment during the hot summer months. We love our pets and want them to be with us for as long as possible, and the above tips will go a long way to ensure their safety.

