



Best Practices For Dog Swim Days

Pets are normally prohibited from being in the general swimming pool vicinity and are usually never allowed in the swimming pool itself. Dog swim days are specialized events which allow your favorite pets the opportunity to participate in various water activities. These events can be great fun for everyone involved, but require a little extra attention to ensure the safety of our furry friends and their humans.

Facilities will need to contact the department, who may coordinate with local health departments as needed, to gain approval for hosting a dog swim day (Circular FCS 3-2018 4.9.4). You will be asked to provide an example of facility rules that will be given to patrons, and a quick narrative outlining the facilities Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for cleaning and sanitizing. Facility Rules and SOP's must be consistent with the following best practices as a minimum, but may be more strict.

Please follow these simple safety measures:

1. [Humans may not swim with the dogs.](#)
2. [Dogs must remain under control at all times.](#)
3. [One or two dogs per adult.](#)
4. [Outdoor space for potty breaks.](#)
5. [Dogs must be brushed and rinsed off by hose before entry to the pool.](#)
6. [Familiarize dogs with the pool.](#)
7. [Prohibited animals.](#)
8. [Clean up the doggy doo-doo promptly!](#)
9. [Maintain required sanitizer residuals.](#)
10. [Facility Cleaning.](#)
11. [Vaccination and Licensing.](#)
12. [How do I contact the department?](#)

- 1. Humans may not swim with the dogs.**
 - *We know these are your furry friends and you love them to death, but many diseases carried by dogs can also infect humans.*
 - *Adults and children are often injured by dogs that panic in the pool.*
 - *Do not allow humans to swim with the dogs.*

- 2. Dogs must remain under control at all times.**
 - *Dogs must be under physical control or voice command at all times.*
 - *Collar must stay on.*
 - *Leashes must be removed while the dogs are in the pool.*
 - *Aggressive or nuisance dogs may be asked to leave.*

- 3. One to two dogs per adult.**
 - *If you own five well trained circus dogs, you might be able to pull this off, however, most adults cannot effectively control more than one or two dogs in this sort of situation.*
 - *Limit the event to one or two dogs per adult.*

- 4. Outdoor space for potty breaks.**
 - *Facility must have sufficient outdoor space that is easily accessible for event participants that may need to take potty breaks or stretch their legs.*

- 5. Dogs must be brushed and rinsed off by hose before entry to the pool.**
 - *Keeping the dog clean and well-groomed will help to minimize pool contamination.*
 - *Make sure each animal is sufficiently brushed and rinsed before entry to the pool.*

- 6. Familiarize dogs with the pool.**
 - *Show them how to get in and out of the pool so they won't get scared and panic.*
 - *Many dogs may just want to splash in the shallow end.*
 - *Don't throw them into the pool!*

- 7. Prohibited animals.**
 - *Nuisance dogs, vicious dogs, dogs showing obvious signs of illness, and dogs in heat are not allowed to participate in these events.*

- 8. Clean up the doggy doodoo promptly!**
 - *Seriously! Nobody likes doggy doodoo and it can carry disease causing organisms that could infect other dogs or humans.*
 - *Poop on the deck, in the grass, or in the pool should be promptly picked up and disposed of in a waste receptacle.*
 - *Decks and any equipment used for cleanup should be immediately sanitized using a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 part water.*

9. Maintain the required sanitizer residuals and water chemistry parameters.

- *Many communicable diseases can be transmitted from dog to dog, and dog to human. Maintaining the residual sanitizer levels will help to reduce the spread of disease.*
- *Dogs may contribute more than three times the organic contaminants as humans to the pool. This will quickly eat up any residual chemical sanitizer available. Care must be taken to keep the residual chemical sanitizer within the proper range. The event may require some extra attention to the chemical feeders and may even require a head start on chlorine loading before the event.*
- *UV treatment is not required, but would help greatly against cryptosporidium and any other chlorine hardened pathogens, as well as helping reduce any organic contaminants to free up some of that combined chlorine.*
- *Some sources recommend not exceeding 5ppm chlorine due to the dogs increased sensitivity. The department recommends maintaining 1– 5ppm during the event.*

10. Facility Cleaning.

- *Keep all drains, skimmer baskets, pump strainer baskets, and filters clear of hair and debris throughout the event;*
- *Superchlorinate before allowing public use:*
 - *with \leq 15 ppm cyanuric acid in the pool*
 - *20ppm chlorine for 28 hours, or*
 - *30ppm chlorine for 18 hours, or*
 - *40ppm chlorine for 8.5 hours.*
 - *with NO cyanuric acid in the pool*
 - *20ppm chlorine for 12.75 hours, or*
 - *30ppm chlorine for 8.5 hours, or*
 - *40ppm chlorine for 6.5 hours.*
- *Drain, clean, and sanitize the entire pool, circulation system, and deck area before allowing public use.*

11. Vaccination and Licensing.

- *Please check with your local animal control office for specific vaccination and licensing requirements in your area. The department recommends all dogs be vaccinated against rabies prior to participating in a public event.*

12. How do I contact the department?

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