

Pool Safety Tips for Pets:

- Never assume that your dog will avoid the water! If something flies into the pool (a duck, a ball from the neighbor's yard) many dogs will jump in.
- Puppies and small dogs can get through child proof fencing.
- Senior dogs lose their sight and their sense of smell. Dogs with dementia, diabetes, epilepsy might not know they are falling into a pool. Dogs with bad hearts and arthritis cannot lift themselves out of a pool. Never leave them in a yard with an unfenced pool.
- Koi ponds and shallow pools are as deadly as unfenced pools.
- Make sure your fence is high enough to keep your dog from jumping into the neighbor's yard and pool.
- Many pools have low water levels that make it even more difficult for a dog to pull its wet body up and they often can't reach the edge of the pool, especially small dogs.
- Many dogs, including Basset Hounds, Dachshunds and some Bull Dogs cannot swim! They sink!
- Unless taught otherwise, dogs will swim frantically where they fell in, until they drown from exhaustion.
- Gently carry the dog into the water. Never just throw your dog into the pool!
- Guide them; support them under the belly, slowly working your way around the sides of the pool, until they find the steps. Use positive reinforcement!
- Repeat this training every day for 6 weeks until you know your dog can swim AND find the exit on their own. Dogs learn by repetition.
- For dogs that are difficult to handle, place them in a canine life preserver/jacket and use the handle while guiding them around the sides of the pool.