



Pawsitive Experience
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Water and Swimming Safety Tips For Our Canines

Following these guidelines and using some basic common sense will help keep your dog safe in the water.

Teaching your dog to Swim

1. Just like you would never do this with your child, do not throw your dog into the water and expect them to swim. Start out in shallow water and coax with treats or a toy. Some dogs will swim when there is peer pressure. Bring a doggy friend along who loves the water.
2. Respect that your dog may not love the water. Some dogs will even panic. Don't push it if your dog does not like to swim.
3. Breeds with short legs like Pugs, Dachshunds, and Bassets may not be able to swim. If in and around water, make sure they wear a canine flotation vest.

Lakes, Streams, and Ocean Safety

1. To be on the safe side it is always good to have your dog wear a flotation vest. Flotation vests for dogs also have grab handles so you can pull your dog out of the water.
2. Be aware of your dog's physical condition and look for signs of fatigue. Dogs, like us, can get tired, get cramps, or caught in a current.
3. Dogs with low body fat do not float as well and have less protection against the cold. Keep those factors in mind around cold water and in strong currents.
4. If throwing sticks or flotation toys in the water, check the surrounding shore line for submerged small trees and branches that can trap your dog. Make sure to pick an area where it is easy for your dog to get out.
5. There are many toxins around lakes and streams. Bird feces, blue algae and dead fish can contain very dangerous toxins, and some can even be deadly. Avoid these areas and keep an eye out on what your dog is consuming. At the beach, look out for jelly fish.

6. At the beach, sand can get very hot. Dogs need to stay hydrated and avoid direct sun to avoid heatstroke. Don't allow him to drink sea water since it can make them sick.

Boating Safety

1. Make sure your dog is wearing a flotation vest at all times.
2. Keep your dog cool and hydrated while on the boat.
3. Boating surfaces can get very hot. Consider having your dog wear protective booties, similar to booties worn in ice and snow, and found at many pet stores and outdoor shops.

Pool Safety

1. Pools should be fenced so your dog does not go in unsupervised.
2. Too much chlorine can make your dog sick, so try to keep him from consuming a lot of pool water.
3. Teach your dog to climb the pool ladder or consider buying a Skamper Ramp, a product that allows dogs and children to more easily climb out of a pool
4. Consider having your dog wear a flotation vest while in the pool.
5. Don't expect a pool cover to be safe. If the pool cover is not nice and tight, dogs can slip under.

Enjoy the dog days of summer with your canine family.

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