



CHARLESTON VETERINARY
REFERRAL CENTER

Pool Safety: What to Know



As summer approaches and the weather heats up, many pet owners are eager to enjoy some fun in the sun by the pool. While pools can provide great exercise and enjoyment for both humans and pets, they also present certain hazards. Ensuring your pet's safety around the pool is crucial to preventing accidents and ensuring a fun, stress-free summer. Here's what you need to know about pet pool safety:

Pet Pool Hazards: What You Need to Know

- **Drowning Risks:** Pets can drown if they fall into a pool and are unable to find a way out. Even strong swimmers can tire quickly.
- **Chemical Exposure:** Pool chemicals, like chlorine, can irritate your pet's skin, eyes, and respiratory system.
- **Heat Stress:** Prolonged exposure to the sun and heat around the pool area can lead to overheating and dehydration.
- **Ingestion Hazards:** Drinking pool water can cause stomach upset due to chlorine and other chemicals. Swallowed pool toys or debris can cause choking or intestinal blockages.
- **Slip and Fall Injuries:** Wet surfaces around the pool can be slippery, leading to falls and potential injuries.

Essential Pool Safety Tips for Pets

- **Supervision is Key:** Always supervise your pets when they are near the pool. Never leave them unattended.
- **Install a Pet-Friendly Pool Fence:** A fence around the pool can prevent unsupervised access. Ensure it has a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- **Provide an Easy Exit:** Make sure your pool has steps or a ramp that your pet can use to climb out easily.
- **Learn Pet CPR:** In case of emergencies, knowing pet CPR can save your pet's life. Take a pet first aid course.
- **Keep Chemicals Out of Reach:** Store pool chemicals in a secure location away from your pets.

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- **Limit Pool Time:** Prolonged swimming can exhaust your pet. Limit their time in the water and provide breaks in a shaded area.
- **Rinse After Swimming:** Rinse your pet with fresh water after swimming to remove chlorine or salt, which can irritate their skin and coat.
- **Provide Fresh Drinking Water:** Ensure your pet has access to fresh, clean drinking water to prevent them from drinking pool water.
- **Use Pet-Friendly Pool Toys:** Choose toys that are safe and large enough to prevent choking.
- **Check for Hidden Hazards:** Regularly inspect the pool area for sharp objects, loose tiles, or other potential hazards.

Emergency Preparedness

- **Keep a Pet First Aid Kit Handy:** Include bandages, antiseptic wipes, and contact information for your veterinarian.
- **Know the Signs of Distress:** Watch for signs of fatigue, difficulty breathing, or disorientation, and act quickly if you notice any.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Keep your veterinarian's contact information and the number for an emergency vet clinic readily available.

By following these safety tips, you can ensure that your furry friends have a fun and safe time around the pool. Remember, a few simple precautions can prevent accidents and keep your pets healthy and happy.



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