

DOGGIE SWIM DAYS: Health Department Guide



The Fairfax County Health Department has provides recommendations for dog swim events. These events may only be scheduled at the end of the summer pool season after swimmers are no longer permitted to use the pool. Only outdoor pools are allowed to participate.

Recommended Chemical Guidelines

Chlorine

- Raise to 2.0 ppm for the 24 hours before the event.
- Maintained at 1.0 ppm during the event (Not to exceed 5.0 ppm during event).
- After event, raise the chlorine to 20 ppm for 12 hours and 45 minutes to sanitize the pool, then normal winterization procedures can follow.

pH

- Maintain pH between 7.2 – 7.8.

Contamination Procedures

Dogs are to be hosed off before and after their swim to remove dirt and chlorine.

Dog Fecal Accidents:

- **Pool:** Remove as much as possible with a net and dispose of in a waste container.
- DO NOT VACCUM fecal matter.
- Sanitize the net with the approved sanitizer solution* (listed below).

Pool Deck: Remove as much fecal material as possible and disposed of properly.

- The area should be sanitized.

Grass: Fecal material is to be removed and disposed of properly.

Be aware of potential parasites and diseases that may pose risk to those walking barefoot or eating in the area.

Recommended Deck/Grass/Other Precautions

- Check pool and deck drains for debris and hair periodically to ensure they are free of obstructions.
- Engage dogs in high energy play before entering the pool to encourage urination/defecation.
- Special accommodation may be necessary for handicapped individuals with service dogs.

After Event/Pre-Winterization

Pool: Raise the free chlorine in the pool to 20 ppm and maintain it for at least 12 hours 45 minutes. Then draining the pool as part of the winterization process.

Pool Deck: Clean and sanitize the deck with approved sanitizing solution*.

Grassy Area: Remove and dispose of as much fecal material as possible.

Proceed with standard winterization procedures.

*Sanitization solution: 1 part bleach per 9 parts cool water (NOT HOT WATER)

References:

[CDC](#) | [Indiana Department of Health](#) | [Iowa Department of Health and Human Services](#)