



Practical Guide to Swimming at the Essex Animal Hospital

Owner Swimming Dog

What to Bring

For Your Dog: a flat collar, a lead, towels, floating toys (we have lots but you can bring your own)

For You: Aqua Shoes (highly recommended), Swim suit and Towel. We have lockers available for your personal belongings please ask our attendant

1. Potty your dog before bringing him/her in for a swim.
2. Keep your dog on a leash at all times
3. Shower your dog before swimming.
4. When instructed, place the swimming pants and lifejacket on your dog. We will assist you with this if needed.
5. When instructed, take your dog into the pool and have fun.
6. Watch your dog at all times and be sure to read the posted signs about tired dogs.
7. Exit the pool when the attendant tells you your time is up or before if you and your dog are tired.
8. Remove lifejacket and swim pants and give to attendant.
9. Rinse your dog off in the dog shower.
10. Please ask for assistance before using our dog dryer.
11. Help yourself to coffee, or water after your swim.

Please do not swim your dog if:

1. It has a contagious disease i.e. diarrhea, skin rash, open sores
2. It has parasites.
3. It has not been approved for swimming by your veterinarian.

A swimming orientation is mandatory for the first session for every dog. During that session our therapist will determine your dog's swimming level and will approve no lifejacket swimming if appropriate. If your dog can swim only with a therapist you will be notified at this time.