

Division of Community Hygiene

Dog Swim Event Policy

Date of Policy: August 1, 2023

When hosting a Dog Swim event at a licensed swimming pool/aquatic facility in the District, facilities must follow regulations set by the DC Health Division of Community Hygiene (Title 25-C DCMR).

All facilities hosting an approved Dog Swim event must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Email a request to host a Dog Swim event to community.hygiene@dc.gov.
 - *The request shall be submitted to DC Health at least 14 calendar days prior to the event's scheduled date.*
 - *Please include:*
 - *Planned date and location.*
 - *Point of contact name and contact information.*
 - *Confirm that the requested event will comply with all guidelines listed below.*
- Events must occur at an **outdoor** aquatic facility and the event must occur on the last operational day for the season.
- Dogs are not allowed in running splash pads or on features (slides, diving boards, etc.).
- Pool circulation system must be off and water quality must meet human swimming standards.
- Event check-in process must include a log for the owner's and dog's name, owner's address, and contact information.
- Pools must have a zero depth or ramped entry.
- Relief areas outside the pool deck area must be identified and scheduled breaks provided.
- Facilities must provide a grooming/shower station near the entry.
- Pools must be drained within 24 hours of the event.
- Dogs must have a valid and original [DC Health issued dog license](#) (no photocopies) and tag to enter the pool.
- Dogs must be current on vaccinations including rabies and distemper.
- Dogs demonstrating aggressive behavior should not be allowed entry.
- Dogs must be sociable and remain leashed while outside the pool deck (violent or aggressive dogs should be removed from the event).
- Dogs must be clean and well-groomed with no cuts, wounds or illnesses.
- Dog handlers may bring one dog per handler.
- Dog handlers must be at least 16 years of age or older.
- Dog handlers cannot swim or enter the pool with their dogs (except for in the event of an emergency).

Failure to comply with this policy may result in a summary suspension of the facility's Swimming Pool License and/or other penalties.

*****All inquiries should be directed to community.hygiene@dc.gov.*****