

Animals in Public Pools

DOG SWIM EVENTS

Minnesota pool code does not allow dog swim events

Owners and operators of public pools cannot hold dog swim events at any time. This includes when pools aren't open to humans, such as during the off season.

State, county, and city health departments license and regulate public pools. These pools must follow Minnesota Rules, part 4717.0150 to 4717.3975 (pool code). Minnesota Rules, part 4717.1650, subpart 9 states animals are not allowed in the pool enclosure. Licenses are valid for 12 months. Owners and operators must follow the pool code this entire time.

Public health and safety

Animals can carry bacterial, viral, or parasitic pathogens. Keeping animals out of public pools helps:

- Prevent the spread of disease to humans
- Keep pool water clean
- Prevent accidents and injuries

Pool equipment

Public pools rely on a re-circulation system to filter, treat, and disinfect the water. A buildup of animal hair in this system can clog or strain equipment. This may lead to equipment needing servicing, repair, or replacement.

Service animals

Service animals can be in the pool enclosure area, but not in the pool water. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal. Emotional support, therapy, or companion animals are not considered service animals under ADA.

Resources

[Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA](https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/)
(<https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/>)

[Public Swimming Pools - MN Dept. of Health](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/recreation/pools/index.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/recreation/pools/index.html>)

Minnesota Department of Health
Food, Pools, and Lodging Services
625 Robert Street North
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4500
health.swimmingpools@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4500.

Xav tau cov ntaub ntawv no ua tus qauv txawv qhov no, hu rau: 651-201-4500.

Si aad xogtan ugu hesho qaab kale, wac: 651-201-4500.

Para obtener esta información en otro formato, llame al 651-201-4500.