

Operating Requirements

The use of the pool by animals does not relieve the facility owners and operators of any of the requirements of the Iowa Swimming Pool and Spa rules. Swimming pools shall be operated in a safe, sanitary manner as required by Section 15.4 including but not limited to:

- The swimming pool recirculation shall be operated continuously in accordance with 15.4(1)"b."(1). The swimming pool shall have a means for skimming the pool water surface in accordance with 15.4(1)"b."(4).
- The water quality and testing must be completed and logged in accordance with 15.4(2). The swimming pool water shall have a free chlorine residual of at least 1.0 ppm, an ORP of at least 700 mV, and all parts of the sides and bottom of the pool must be clearly visible from the pool deck including the main drain/s.
- The equipment for the continuous feed of chlorine shall be operational in accordance with 15.4(3)"a."(1).
- Lifeguards shall be provided in accordance with 15.4(4)"d.". The lifeguard staffing plan shall include staffing assignments for all programs conducted at the pool in accordance with 15.4(4)"m." including the staffing plan during dog swim.
- Decks shall be maintained slip-resistant, and free of litter, obstructions and tripping hazards in accordance with 15.4(4)"k."(1).

Recommendations for Dog Swims

- A dog swim should only be held at an outdoor pool with grassy areas accessible for dogs to defecate and urinate. The event should only be scheduled at the end of the operating season allowing an extended shutdown to clean any remaining waste from the decks and grassy areas, and to clean the pool, refill it with fresh water, and hyperchlorinate before reopening the following season.
- Cleaning grassy areas: Remove as much of the fecal material as possible and dispose of properly. Some parasites, such as roundworm eggs can remain infectious for months in soil, posing a possible risk to people walking barefoot, eating in the area.
- People may wade in to their knees but should not be fully submerged or swimming in the pool with the dogs. This is the best way to prevent the dogs from transmitting diseases to or injuring the people.
- All dogs should be registered for the event with the owner's name and address and vaccination history. All age appropriate vaccinations should be current. Aggressive dogs, dogs with obvious infections or diarrhea, or dogs in heat should not be allowed. Each dog should be accompanied by a separate handler.
- Dogs should be hosed off before allowing them to enter the pool. This will remove excess hair, dirt, feces, urine, etc. to reduce the contamination of the swimming pool.
- In addition to lifeguards, staff should be present who are trained to monitor dog behavior and to recognize dogs in distress as the dogs could become aggressive, injuring staff or guests.
- Recommend following CDC guidelines for [fecal incidents](#) and [bodily fluids on pool deck surfaces](#) whether the fecal or bodily fluids are from the people or the dogs as both can transmit disease.

For additional information, please contact John Kelly at 515-724-9961 or Mindy Uhle at 515-242-6131.