

TOP 10 MYTHS ABOUT SWIMMING YOUR DOG IN A POOL

- 1 Not all dogs can swim.**

All dogs can swim instinctively. Dogs that appear to not know how to swim may not have been properly introduced to water or have never experienced being in it. Fear of water is the only thing preventing a dog from swimming. Once they learn that water cannot harm them, all dogs will eventually take to water and then to swimming. Once dogs learn to relax in water, their instincts take over and they begin to paddle. The mad splashing that occurs when a dog is brought in a pool is about water and not about swimming.
- 2 Swimming is more work than running on land.**

Not true. Swimming is easier on joints, hips, overweight dogs and dogs who have undergone surgery. Water offers enough resistance to work muscles without the constant pounding (impact) of running. Some dogs who are recuperating from surgery are recommended by your vet to not run, swimming offers a safe, controlled method of exercising your dog. Dogs are buoyant in water so the only work dogs do in water is paddling.
- 3 Swimming is dangerous for Puppies.**

Just like human babies, puppies can swim once they learn to relax in the water. The instinct for swimming exists in all dogs at any age. With a trainer on hand to control your puppy, he will be in safe, carefully watched environment.
- 4 My overweight dog can't walk, how can he swim?**

Overweight dogs can be carried into the pool and most pools (ours included) have steps to enter the water.
- 5 My dog doesn't like water.**

In almost all cases, most dogs like water. There have been the instance when a dog has not enjoyed running and playing in water but it is not a common occurrence. After two or three sessions, if a dog has not taken to the activity, then it is safe to conclude your dog does not like water
- 6 My dog's coat will get ruined in salt water**

Our pool is equipped with a top-of-the-line water filtration system that uses small amounts of sodium chloride to split into salt and chlorine. It puts just enough chlorine back into the water to combat bacteria. The salt it adds is far less than the salt in the ocean and will actually leave your dog's coat softer than before he went in. This is the same filtration system that many public swimming pools are just now switching to.
- 7 My dog doesn't do well with other dogs. How can I take him swimming?**

Our swimming sessions are on a dog-by-dog basis. No other dogs are allowed into the pool during your session unless you specifically request it. There is enough interaction between our trainer and your dog to keep him fully engaged during the entire session.
- 8 My dog is too hyperactive to go swimming?**

30 minutes of swimming offers enough activity for a hyperactive dog to give him the same activity level as running for two hours without the damage that regular impact on solid ground can cause.
- 9 Swimming a dog in a pool is the same as swimming a dog in the ocean.**

Absolutely not. The most obvious differences are the rocks and broken shells hidden in the muddy water that can cut into paws, the chemicals and pollution you can't see, the rocks and boulders that line the beach that a dog has to climb past before getting in the water etc. In our pool, the small amount of chemicals are highly controlled, the environment is policed by our trainer and the water is heated and the pool is protected from the elements.
- 10 My dog is too old for swimming.**

Actually, swimming is highly recommended for overweight, elderly and arthritic dogs because dogs are buoyant in water. Movement through water offers enough resistance to work their muscles without damage or strain. For animals (and humans) movement through water is easier and more enjoyable than movement on land.

