

(Kiddie) Pool Safety

Objective: Provide the team with the knowledge necessary to keep the dogs safe around kiddie pools.

Content: One of the best parts about summer is filling the pools and watching the dogs run and splash around! It is important that your staff understand that pools are fun but can also present significant danger, even the small ones. Summer is a busier time when there will be more distractions and challenges present than any other time of the year. This Lunch & Learn is designed to facilitate discussion on keeping the dogs safe and healthy in the play yard with kiddie pools. You can also utilize this lunch and learn to review pool safety and other heat related issues.

Prior to Lunch & Learn Session:

- In preparation for leading the group discussion, the leader should review the information provided in the supporting materials section found below.
- Print a copy of the news story for each attendee.
- Print the Pool Safety Tips provided in the supporting documents section. Add tips that are specific to your center.

During Lunch & Learn Session:

- Pass out a copy of the news story to each attendee. Have them read it and write down their thoughts to the question posed at the end.
- Have the group share their ideas on how this tragedy could have been prevented.
- Discuss specific ways to incorporate prevention of a pool tragedy in your center.
- Review the Pool Safety Tips.
- Create necessary action items to improve pool safety in your center.
- Utilize this time to share any other summer and heat safety tips.

Supporting Documents: The following resources provide additional information on the topic and can be introduced either before or during the meeting.

*See next two pages

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Owner Claims Pet 'Baked' at Doggy Daycare, No Laws Regulating S.C. Facilities

By Harve Jacobs | May 3, 2016 at 7:41 PM EDT - Updated July 12 at 6:20 AM

MOUNT PLEASANT, SC (WCSC) - A Live 5 News investigation has revealed there are no laws in South Carolina regulating doggy daycare businesses, a finding that comes after a Mount Pleasant woman's pet dog died at a Mount Pleasant doggy daycare.

Judith Von says she regularly boarded her two-year-old dog Zane at Paws in Paradise on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard.

She says there were no problems until August 5, 2015.

She says she dropped off Zane at 9 a.m. Von says she returned at 5 p.m. to pick him up and says she was met by the owner.

"She started this thing about, 'Well, this has never happened before' and I said, 'Where is Zane?' And she was kind of going on and I kept saying, 'Where's Zane?' and I was losing it at this point. I was starting to yell and scream, 'Where's my dog?'" Von says.

What happened to Zane was captured on the daycare's web camera video, a copy of which was supplied by Mount Pleasant Police.

At 1 p.m., the video shows Zane and some other dogs were let out to play in a yard. The footage shows Zane checking out an empty metal dog pool propped up against a fence. While an employee cleans up, Zane finds an opening and goes inside the pool. Suddenly, the video shows the pool falling on Zane, covering him up entirely.

It appears from the video no one saw it happen.

Five hours later, the video shows an employee pulling up the pool and finding Zane. The video then shows another employee run out, see what happened, then walk away with her hands in the air. Another employee in the footage puts his hands behind his head.

The tape shows Von being taken out the yard to see for herself.

After Zane's body is removed, an employee covers up the webcam with a towel. More than an hour later the cover was removed.

"When I took him home, my neighbor came from next door and he carried...I'm sorry," Von said. "There is no way you can prepare yourself for that and to see something so young and so full of life die for what?"

Von had a necropsy done on Zane. The veterinarian's report states "death due to physical suffocation from the weight of the pool, compounded by hours in the sun post mortem."

Brainstorm: How could this tragedy been avoided?

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Pool Safety Tips

With these simple tips, your dogs can play safe and cool off in kiddie pools!

1. Periodic dog checks in the play yard and roll calls should be completed routinely to ensure all dogs are accounted for.
2. Secure pools when they are not in use to prevent them from falling on dogs/humans.
3. Place the pool in the shade to protect the dogs from the sun to prevent sunburn and overheating.
4. Use fresh, clean water every time you use the pool. Consider emptying pools and refilling several times a day to keep the water clean and cool. Remember, kiddie pools aren't equipped with filters or chemical treatments that kill bacteria.
5. Rinse the pool after each use and wipe it down with disinfectant.
6. Provide fresh water bowls around the pool to encourage dogs to drink from sources other than the pool.
7. Remember dogs can drown in shallow water. Supervise dogs around water at all times.
8. Check the temperature to make sure it's not too hot or cold.
9. Remember, hoses left out in the sun will run very hot at first before they start spraying cold water. Be careful when first filling the pools.
10. *Add other special considerations for your center*

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