

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

**My dog Remi is an avid swimmer in our backyard pool. I often see him taking a break to lap up some water real quick. Will this make him sick? Thanks, Kerry**

Thank you for your question, Kerry. Assuming your swimming pool was chlorinated appropriately (public pools chlorinate at 1 ppm, or 1 mg/L) the risk of Remi getting sick from drinking the pool water is low. Just make sure he isn't gulping it too quickly and swallowing a lot of air. Some people may have a salt water pool at home. There is a small risk that if your dog drinks too much of the salt water it can cause increased sodium levels (causing neurologic problems) and lead to dehydration. Most salt water pools have a salt concentration of 3,000-4,000 ppm. Sea water has 30,000 ppm of salt, which is 10x that of home salt water pools. Therefore, according to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, the risk is low for your dog to get sick by drinking from the salt water pool. We hope you and Remi enjoy your summer swimming!

**Submitted by: Dr. Kevin Schmidt**



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