

Pet Safety

Emergency Vet Service in Watertown SD

[Westside Animal Clinic 605-878-7297](#)

Water & Swimming Safety

- **Life Jackets:** Even if your dog can swim, a life jacket keeps them safe in deep or fast-moving water and makes them easier to spot.
- **Prevent Ingestion:** Prevent your pet from drinking lake water, as it can contain parasites like Giardia, bacteria, and harmful blue-green algae.
- **Rinse After Swimming:** Rinse your pet thoroughly with fresh water to remove potential contaminants.
- **Supervision & Exit Points:** Never leave your pet unsupervised near the water. Ensure they know how to get out of the water, especially near docks or pools.

Boating & Activity Safety

- **Boat Safety:** Keep pets on a leash on docks and ensure they are secured on boats, away from engines, due to fumes and choppy water.
- **Heat Protection:** Limit outdoor time during extreme heat, provide shade, and check for signs of heat exhaustion.
- **Paw Protection:** Sand, docks, and pavement can get very hot, causing burns to paw pads.

Hazard Awareness

- **Blue-Green Algae:** Look for scummy, discolored water (green, blue-green, or red) as it can be toxic and even fatal.
- **Shoreline Dangers:** Watch for fishing gear, broken glass, sharp rocks, and trash.
- **Wildlife:** Be aware of local wildlife and potentially aggressive, off-leash pets.
- **ID/Safety:** Always have your pet wear an ID tag and consider a microchip in case they get lost.