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Sand Run Pharmacy

PET TALK

American College of
Veterinary Pharmacists

Do Not Mix: Bromide With Swimming

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Pet owners, especially those of us with large breeds, should pay close attention to the temperature during these “dog days” of summer. As dogs do not sweat, owners must find creative ways to keep our furry friends cool while also giving them adequate exercise. An obvious choice is swimming.

Before you are quick to let your joyful pal run through the sand dunes into the ocean or splashing into the water of a willing pool owner, heed a special warning if your dog is prone to seizures.

Canine epilepsy has an estimated prevalence of 0.6% (Kearsely-Fleet et al. *Vet Rec* 172(13): 338) making it the most common neurological condition en-



countered in most veterinary clinics. For obvious drowning risks, it's advised that epileptic dogs avoid swimming. If your dog's seizures are being treated with bromide, letting them go swimming is an absolute hazard.

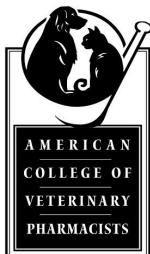
Both the chlorine content of a pool and the salt content of

seawater can affect serum bromide levels can thus therapeutic outcomes.

Bromide is renally eliminated. Within the kidneys, bromide competes with chloride for extensive tubular reabsorption. Increased chloride intake (i.e. lapping up water while swimming) will, therefore,

cause an increase in the amount of bromide eliminated from the body. With reduced serum bromide concentrations uncontrolled seizure activity can occur.

Submitted by Natalie W. Young, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, PharmD Candidate 2016



Alternative ways to keep your dog cool and stay safe:

- Set up a kiddie pool
- Place wet towels for your dog to lie on
- Let your pet play in the sprinklers
- Bowls of ice in the shade are nice treats during the heat of summer too