

# Securing water points

When thirst becomes fatal for animals.

Very thirsty animals can put themselves in mortal danger. Water points like swimming pools, rain barrels and ponds often become death traps for cats, hedgehogs, birds, insects and many other animals. They fall in and, after a long and agonizing death struggle, drown. However, water points can easily be secured.

## Swimming pools

While most animals are able to swim, very few will be able to climb out of the water over the side of a pool. A suitable pool cover, installed whenever the pool is left unattended, provides the safest protection. Another solution are exit ramps allowing animals to climb out by themselves. Ideally, two or three such ramps should be placed in different corners of the pool.

## Paddling pools

Paddling pools ideally should always be emptied overnight. During the day, a simple escape aid will be adequate. Styrofoam boards or thick terry towels placed partly in the water will help animals get to safety.

## Ponds

Ponds with steep banks have a similar effect to a high-walled pool. Again, one or several escape options should always be provided. A board or a thick towel can help an animal climb out of the water to safety. It is important to ensure that the escape aid is securely fixed, giving the animal the necessary support when leaving the water. It is also important to check the water levels regularly, as the escape aid may not reach into the water for the animal to reach it if the water level is low.

## Water troughs

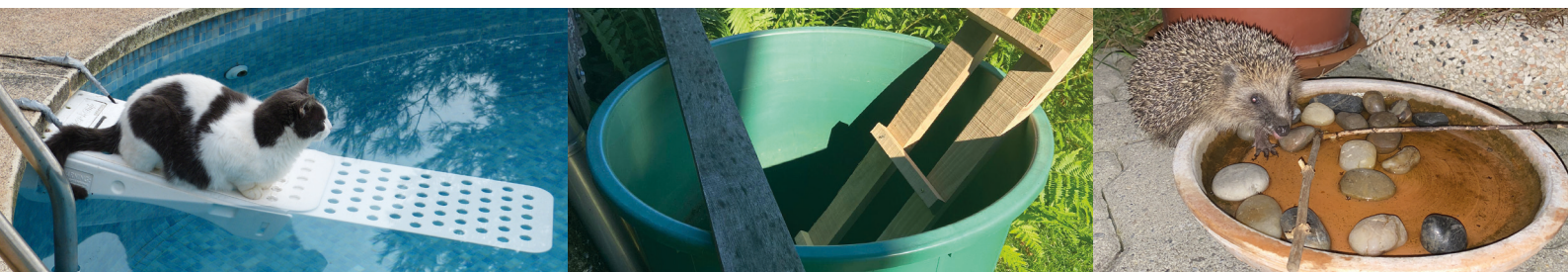
Here, too, an escape option should be provided. You could use stones to build some steps to help animals climb out of the water. Please ensure that the steps are not too high and that they are firmly wedged into each other.

## Rain barrels

Rain barrels should always be covered. Please ensure that the lid is secured, as a strong gust of wind could blow it away. Open rain barrels can be secured with board wedged to the rim. This allows animals like birds to drink from a secure footing.

## Water bowls

Offer water to the animals in your garden, preferably in shallow bowls, allowing smaller animals to drink. Remember insects can drown very quickly. A few stones or small twigs in the bowl will help insects quench their thirst safely.



Because every life matters!