

Real Estate News

By Marian Goetzinger, Pine Knoll Shores Realty



Has the real estate business gone to the dogs?



Kirby and Chloe—Photo by Marian Goetzinger

One thing is for sure: Nothing stays the same in this business. I will remember, when I first started practicing real estate, saying to Ted, my much older and wiser husband (LOL), “I can’t wait until I don’t have to say ‘I don’t know, but I’ll find out.’” His reply was, “If that day ever comes, it will be time to quit because you’ll never know it all, and it will change constantly. When you think you know it all, you stop learning.” He was right.

Well, this is new. Apparently, folks are bringing their pets with them to preview homes. After 25 years in the business, I have never had that experience; however, according to the

June 2, 2021 *National Association of Realtors* magazine, 20 percent of potential buyers bring their pets when looking for a home. How their pets react to a house may influence their buying decisions. Twenty-four percent of buyers admit that the needs of their pets are a big factor in choosing a new home. I get that. I often have buyers say they must have a fenced-in area for their pets, and I know I consider my pets when designing or buying a home for my family.

While I haven’t had prospects show up with animals in tow to look at properties yet, I am well aware of how important pets are to so many of my friends and neighbors. Ted and I admit that, when we’re out walking our dogs, it’s not unusual for us to be unable to remember a neighbor’s name—but we remember the pets. We look forward to seeing Beau, Bella, Hunter, Kate, Bear and their humans.

I have noticed more and more people bringing their dogs to places we haven’t seen dogs before. People are bringing them to church and work. Many hotels and rental homes have changed their pet policies to welcome animals. Some retail businesses and restaurants are even becoming pet friendly. I am still leaving my beloved dogs at home, but I definitely see a difference since spending much more time at home during the pandemic. My older dog howls pathetically when I leave for work in the morning, and my little girl dog sits by the door and looks very sad. It tugs at my heart and helps me understand completely why some people are reluctant to leave their pets at home.

I’m not sure if this trend will continue and grow or if we’ll return to the way we were before. I think we have all learned to slow down and enjoy some of life’s simple pleasures that we have taken for granted in the past. Pets are some of those pleasures; I expect a more-permissive attitude regarding pets to continue. I will be asking homeowners who enlist me to sell their homes if buyers’ pets are welcome if they show up for previews. The new rule may be: Leave your shoes at the door, but bring your dog right in.



RIP CURRENT

what you need to know

WHAT IS A RIP CURRENT?

Rip currents are channeled currents of water flowing away from shore at surf beaches. They typically extend from near the shoreline, through the surf zone and past the line of breaking waves. (The surf zone is the area between the high tide level on the beach to the seaward side of breaking waves.)

What does a rip current look like?

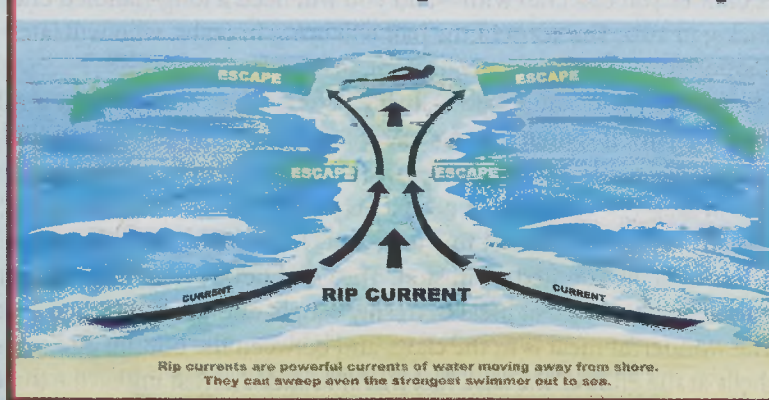
Signs that a rip current is present are very subtle and difficult for the average beach-goer to identify. Look for differences in the water color, water motion, incoming wave shape or breaking point compared to adjacent conditions. Look for any of these clues:

- Channel of churning, choppy water
- Area having a notable difference in water color
- Line of foam, seaweed, or debris moving steadily seaward
- Break in the incoming wave pattern
- One, all or none the clues may be visible.
- **Learn to float on your back.**
- Never swim alone.
- **Bring a float.**
- Swim near a lifeguard.
- Look for posted signs and warning flags, which may indicate higher than usual hazards.
- Obey all instructions provided by lifeguards.
- Be cautious. Always assume rip currents are present even if you don’t see them.
- **If in doubt, don’t go out!**

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ **Don’t fight the current**
- ◆ **Swim out of the current, then to shore**
- ◆ **If you can’t escape, float or tread water**
- ◆ **If you need help, call or wave for assistance**

RIP CURRENTS Break the Grip of the Rip!



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