

Stimulating Water Consumption

As animals age or become ill, they can lose the ability to recognize thirst, thus frequently drink less water than is optimal to maintain proper health. This can result in dehydration and increased debilitation in already sick animals. Adequate daily water intake is necessary to maintain organ function. It also helps prevent constipation. Proper hydration is especially important for animals who have a history of kidney disease, diabetes, urinary disorders and for animals recovering from injury or illness.

If you notice or feel that your pet is drinking less than what is appropriate, the following are a few steps you can do to stimulate water intake:

- 1) Set up multiple water bowls. This provides multiple and easier access especially if your pet suffers from arthritic conditions, old age or any other ailment that may hinder movement.
- 2) Slightly warm the water to about luke warm temperature and add a small amount of chicken broth or juice from canned water packed tuna.
- 3) Leave a faucet dripping just ever so slightly. Many animals, especially cats, seem to like fresh running water. As to avoid waste, place a bowl or bucket under the faucet to catch the water and use it to replenish their water bowls.
- 4) Add luke warm water to your pet's dinner. Adding water to their diet, canned or dry, automatically increases their water intake, providing they have a normal healthy appetite. Many pets also prefer the taste of water added to their diet.

If you any reason you have a concern about your pets water intake or have any other concerns about your pet's health, contact your veterinarian. They are there to help.

