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THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER FOR OUR PETS

Every function of the body depends on the flow of water. Each body organ needs a specific amount of water constantly. For example, the brain receives 18-20% of blood circulation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER FOR ANIMALS

Canned food or, homemade diets can contain up to 65-80% of water. The amounts of water needed each day can change depending on the age, and physical activity. Water can carry important nutrients to the cells of the body and aids digestion. Water can help the body regulate temperatures and improve cognitive function as well as help lubricate the joints. Dehydration can lead to illness and pain. If you have concerns about your animal not drinking enough always follow up with your veterinarian for an appropriate treatment plan.

SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF DEHYDRATION

Dehydration occurs when the body starts to lose the water it has been consuming. It can be lost through panting, urinating, diarrhea, and vomiting. When dehydrated, they can start to lose their ability to keep their body temperatures even. If you feel your animal is dehydrated always follow up with your veterinarian for the proper treatment plan.

CAN MY PET DRINK TAP WATER?

Animals can have tap water, but make sure metals and toxins are taken out by filtering the water.

To find out if toxins are in our tap water, you may obtain a copy of the water report from your local water treatment plant or go to www.ewg.com (Environmental Working Group) and look up your town/city.

PEDIALYTE FOR ANIMALS? YES OR NO

Pedialyte has been made for human consumption and not animals and as it contains refined sugar. The best solution if you feel your animal is dehydrated is to call your veterinarian for the proper treatment plan. There could be side effects if you choose to give your animal home remedies and delaying the care they need. Just keep in mind if you are unsure about any home remedies, to please contact your vet.

DANGERS OF DOGS AND WATER

We all know most dogs love to play in the water as well as drink from any water sources (puddles, ponds, lakes etc.). Here are some of things to look for while on your walks:

One of the potential dangers is blue-green algae, which grows in warm standing water. The foul smell of the algae is attractive to the dogs. When the dogs swim in the water that contain this alga it can cause skin irritations, so, if possible, wash your dog off to remove as much algae as you can. Dogs that drink the infected water in large amounts can develop kidney, liver, or intestinal problems such as vomiting and diarrhea. Keep an eye on your pooch while taking those walks!

PARASITES AND BACTERIA

Also in standing water, bacteria or parasites can live which are not good for your dog. Most common are Giardia and Cryptosporidium which can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Most dogs handle these on their own but sometimes medication is needed. Your veterinarian will be able to determine if medication is needed.

Leptospirosis can be found in small bodies of water and in damp soil where infected wild animals may have urinated in the water. This is not common but can be dangerous to dogs. It can cause kidney damage which can lead to renal failure. Some infected dogs become lethargic and have vomiting and/or diarrhea. Always check with your veterinarian for any concerns if your dog should show any illness to find the options for the best treatments.

Resources:

Your Body's Many Cries for Water F. Batmanghelidj, M.D.

https://www.petmd.com/blogs/fullyvetted/2011/dec/importance_of_water-12189 Read more on the importance of water for Cats

https://www.petmd.com/dog/nutrition/evr_dg_the_importance_of_water Read more on importance of water for Dogs

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/symptoms/is-my-dog-dehydrated> More on Signs and Symptoms of dehydration

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/care/pedialyte-dogs-it-safe> More on Pedialyte and animals

<https://www.petmd.com/blogs/thedailyvet/ken-tudor/2015/july/dangers-water-are-often-invisible-32893> More on Algae in standing water. There will be more on toxins and chemical in our water in a future post

<https://www.petmd.com/blogs/thedailyvet/ken-tudor/2015/july/dangers-water-are-often-invisible-32893> More on Parasites and Bacteria