

Water



Water is one of the most commonly misconceived topics when it comes to house training. Dogs, like all living things, need lots of water to be healthy and to keep digestive processes going smoothly.

Many people mistakenly think they should limit their dog's water during housebreaking. Not so! But while your dog's water intake should not be *limited*, it does need to be *tracked*. This means that your pet should drink lots of water throughout the day.

However, instead of simply filling the bowl and leaving it on the floor, you'll need to keep the bowl up on your counter.

When offering your dog some water, fill the bowl with fresh water while making a big deal. "Oooh, Buddy look! Water!" When you put the bowl down, you can also use a phrase such as, "Drink water," and praise "Good boy, drink water!"

You may be surprised that your dog will actually drink more water using this method than he would when the bowl is left available all day. The big benefit for training is that now you know exactly *when* he drank it! And what goes in must come out. You'll know that if your dog drank half a bowl of water, he'll need to urinate soon...probably within 10 minutes.

Therefore, you'll also know that this is not the time to allow free run of the living room, and that he'll need to be walked to the designated area very soon.

Keep in mind that if you're going to bed at 11 pm, last water should be given at 10. By giving the water one hour before turning in, you'll be able to give your dog ample opportunity to urinate at "last time out," and you'll be able to go to sleep knowing you're tucking in an "empty" pet.

Have you ever gone on a long road trip? What does everyone do before hitting the road? They go to the bathroom! Or at least try. I'll try not to be too graphic, but did you ever notice that if you really didn't have to go, but you just tried anyway...next thing you know, you're on the freeway and need to use the bathroom only half an hour later? I've noticed the same thing with dogs. If they urinate when they have a very full bladder, then they tend to completely empty themselves. This is something to keep in mind when tracking water before work, sleep, etc.

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