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Pet Central

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4 Ways to Prevent Dog Dehydration

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Posted by Chewy

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Spring and summer months are the perfect time to celebrate the change in seasons and enjoy the outdoors with your furry best friend. Summertime brings warm weather and additional daylight for a great variety of activity options. But, along with rising temperatures comes the challenge of staying hydrated—for humans and dogs alike. According to Dr. Rachel Barrack of Animal Acupuncture, “If your dog isn’t drinking enough water, they can rapidly become dehydrated on a hot summer day. Dehydration can be very dangerous and pose a serious threat to [a dog’s] health.” Keep the heat and humidity at bay to ensure your pet stays hydrated, healthy and safe all summer long with these simple and easy tips.

Adjust your schedule. With better weather comes the urge to soak up the sun—and although a day spent laying out at the beach or going for a run may seem like a great way to relax for humans, dogs don’t sweat the same way we do and have a harder time cooling off. Pups sweat through the pads of their feet and by releasing heat through panting. Overexposure to direct sunlight should be avoided, but this doesn’t mean having to eliminate all outdoor activity. Try adjusting your schedule by walking your pooch in the early morning or later evening to avoid peak temperatures, and be sure to provide your dog with ample water. “On particularly hot, humid days and with prolonged exercise, dogs require more water than normal,” says Dr. Barrack. The [Petmate Pearl Replendish Waterer](#)



Supply fresh water. Like humans, our pets have varied preferences and quirks. Some animals are particular when it comes to their water and won't drink from a bowl that has been out too long, isn't cool enough or has an odd odor. But finding the right water reservoir will make it easy. The [Drinkwell Platinum Pet Fountain](#) acts as a filter and aerator that constantly supplies fresh, clean water, making it a simple and stress-free option for pet parents. Although a dog water fountain provides free-falling water to encourage drinking, it is still up to us to make sure that our pets are comfortable and cool. Be sure to watch for warning signs of overheating or dog dehydration, such as excessive panting or drooling, "dry gums, dark, sunken eyes, rapid shallow breathing and lethargy," says Dr. Barrack. A simple "skin test" can also be performed. Gently pinch and release the skin on the back of your dog's neck to see if it takes longer than usual to fall back into place, which may suggest dog dehydration. If your pooch exhibits any of these signs, take them to your veterinarian immediately.

Be mindful. During warm-weather months, a pup is bound to spend more time outdoors, whether he's playing outside, going on errands with you or traveling. After all, a dog makes every mundane task more enjoyable, so it's only natural that we would want to bring him with us wherever we go. But remember, animals and cars can be a harmful and potentially dangerous combination in extreme weather. Animals can easily overheat in a vehicle, even when the temperature outside seems comfortable. When outdoor temperatures reach 70 degrees, the inside of your car can reach 100 degrees. Even with the windows cracked, your car can quickly turn into a deadly trap. With as little as 15 minutes in a hot car posing a threat to our furry loved ones, opt to keep your best friend at home on hotter days. Be sure to provide your dog with plenty of water to keep cool, even when indoors. Consider the [Drinkwell 360 Stainless Steel Pet Fountain](#) as a helpful tool to keep your four-legged best friend hydrated and happy. The pet water fountain's streaming waterfalls mirror a natural drinking source and encourage frequent fountain stops for even the most quenched pup.

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