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Diseases that Make Dog Drink Tons of Water

Does Your Dog Drink a Lot of Water? Might Be Illness

By **Jillita Horton**

Serious disease or illness can make a dog drink a lot of water. Though heavy water drinking is common among healthy active dogs, or even less active canines, what seems like an instinctive healthy habit -- drinking lots of H₂O -- can actually signal disease in your dog.

I asked Dr. Michel Selmer, DVM, of [Advanced Animal Care Center](#) in Huntington, NY, what could make a dog drink tons of water in the absence of a hot sunny day or vigorous exercise.

Dr. Selmer explains, "These clinical signs are non-specific and can be caused by many different diseases or conditions. Usually it is the production of excess, dilute urine that results in a compensatory increase in water consumption, but occasionally the condition is one of increased water intake resulting in the production of large volumes of dilute urine. The following is not a complete listing of the diseases that may result in increased thirst and urination. However it outlines the most common causes."

Cause # 1 of dog drinking a lot of water: urinary/kidney/bladder conditions, and conditions affecting the uterus, such as infection.

Cause # 2 of heavy water drinking in a dog: hyperadrenocorticism, hypoadrenocorticism, hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus and diabetes insipidus. These are endocrine (hormone) related diseases.

Dr. Selmer adds: "Liver disease, certain drugs, fever, pain and certain electrolyte imbalances may also result in increased thirst and urination."

If your dog drinks a ton of water, but otherwise exhibits active, healthy behavior, looks healthy and does not show any other suspicious signs such as lethargy, apathy, refusal to eat, vomiting, constipation, blood in stools, etc., then assume that you have a healthy, active pet that knows how to pay attention to the instinctive drive to quench its thirst.

Dr. Selmer also adds, "Rarely, a behavioral problem is at the root of increased drinking behavior." Thus, if your dog often must quench its thirst, don't assume this requires any kind of discipline or retraining.

When giving water to your dog, it's best to give your pet that which has been treated with a filtration system. It is not healthy for dogs to drink from outdoor puddles, water that has collected in a gutter, etc. Get a treatment system and fill your dog's bowl with H₂O from the filter. A dog doesn't need environmental toxins any more than you do.

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