



**Birchwood
Animal Hospital**

For the love of animals since 1959

Birchwood Animal Hospital

2595 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB | R3J 0P5

www.birchwoodvet.com | birchwood@mymts.net

(204) 832-1368 | Fax (204) 832-1368

Encouraging Your Cat to Drink Water

Adapted from a Royal Canin/Medi-Cal information guide.

1. *Canned food works well.* It is high in water content and many cats like the taste and consistency. It may be warmed in the microwave for fussy eaters, as this will enhance the smell. Try to feed them at least two to three times a day. **You may also add water to canned food**, smoothie consistency (do so gradually).
2. *Provide fresh water daily.* Some cats are very aware of the taste and temperature of water.
3. *Ensure the water bowl is filled to the brim.* Cats have sensitive whiskers and many do not like putting their face into a bowl. A larger bowl or plate may also help in this situation. Some cats prefer a clear glass bowl as they can see through it.
4. *Try adding a drop of canned salmon or tuna or clam juice.* Always make sure a fresh bowl of water is also provided.
5. *Some cats like ice cubes made from flavoured broth* (tuna or salmon juice mixed with water and frozen).
6. *Some cats prefer to drink directly from the tap.* If this is the case, make sure they have access to the tap (ie. keep the bathroom door open if that is where they like to drink). If possible, turn on the tap for your cat several times throughout the day. Water fountains may be purchased for cats.
7. *Keep the food and water bowls away from the litter box area.* Many cats do not like to eat and drink in the same location they do their business.
8. *Keep the water bowl clean* as cats' keen sense of smell can easily detect odours on the edge of the bowl. Stainless steel or ceramic dishes are easier to keep clean. The water dish ideally should be washed at least every other day.
9. *Some cats do not like the taste of tap water.* You might try:
 - Refrigerating the water to improve taste.
 - Try a water filtration system such as Brita.
 - Try bottled water.
 - Try a few different combinations and see which works best.



Additional Resources: If your cat has been diagnosed with interstitial cystitis, it is important to limit stress and increase water consumption. **See the website www.indoorpet.osu.edu/cats**