

DEHYDRATION TREATMENT TIPS

To test for dehydration, pinch a fold of skin on the back of the neck or between the shoulders. The fold should fall into place quickly. If it is slow to return to position the dog is dehydrated, if it stays in place in the tented position, seek immediate vet attention.

If your dog has gone a long time without water, he/she may not tolerate it well. Offer small amounts or better yet, offer ice chips. Forcing too much water at once can make the problem worse.

Pedialyte is a good electrolyte replacement that is easily found at drug and grocery stores. Gatorade and other sports drinks may be more appealing as they have a sweet taste.

Oral electrolyte solutions such as *Rebound*, *HydroLite* and *CeraVet* solutions are available thru online stores and vet offices. They are available in powder and liquid forms.

Low-sodium chicken or beef broth might be preferred. It may be more appetizing if warmed. Broth can be used to add a little flavor to water. Always offer a bowl of clean, plain water too. Broth can be frozen in ice cubes and offered as chips.

A high-calorie supplement such as *Nutri-cal* can be thinned with water. *Nutri-cal* is flavored and may be appetizing.

Puppy milk replacer or dog “ensures” can be used as a liquid replacement. These may need to thin these as some dogs do not prefer the thick consistency.