

# Water Procedures

Water buckets must be checked daily to ensure that all the animals have access to clean, liquid water. Waters should be topped off daily and buckets should be changed out weekly or more frequently if necessary.

Each water bucket has a number on its side that corresponds with the habitat that bucket belongs to and there are two water buckets assigned to each habitat. All water buckets not in use should be kept on the racks on the side of the water shed, open end facing downward. ***Use water buckets for water ONLY!*** Water buckets are typically black, have smooth rims and no punctures or cracks. Do not use water buckets for any other chores and **never use utility buckets (poop, mulch, etc.) for water!!**

## **USDA Standard § 3.10 (a)**

"Potable water must be continuously available to the dogs, unless restricted by the attending veterinarian..."

## **Summer Procedure**

- ***Check the Weekly Chore Log in the volunteer office.*** This will tell you when the water buckets were last changed out.
- ***Take a strainer and measuring cup.*** These are hanging on the side of the stairs leading up to the cabin
- ***Check the water in each bucket for clarity and debris\*.*** Scoop a small amount of water into the measuring cup:
  - If it is clear, any floating debris can be strained out and the water can be topped off.
  - If it is not clear, the bucket will need to be changed out.
- ***If the bucket is being topped off,*** use a clean bucket to pour water into the bucket through the fence.
  - Please do not fill the buckets more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- ***If the bucket is being changed out,*** fill the clean water bucket that has the number matching the habitat that's bucket is being changed and bring it into the habitat.
  1. Unclip the chains from the sides of the bucket holder and lift up.
  2. Pull the old bucket out and place the new one underneath, making sure the side with the tape with the habitat number and the handle are pressed against the fence.
  3. Lower and re-secure the bucket holder. The holder should be flat against the top of the bucket. If not, reposition the bucket. You may need to clear some debris out from under the bucket to accomplish this.
- ***Pour the dirty water OUTSIDE of the habitat,*** preferably onto something that could use watering.
- ***Bring the dirty bucket back to the watershed for cleaning.***

## **USDA Standard § 3.10**

"Water receptacles must be kept clean and sanitized in accordance with § 3.11(b), and before being used to water a different dog ... or a different social grouping of dogs ..."

## **Winter Procedure**

- ***Check the Weekly Chore Log in the basement.*** This will let you know when the water buckets were last changed out.

- **METHOD 1: Replacing water buckets twice daily.**
  - This method is for days where the temperature is freezing or below and night time temperatures are below freezing.
- ***Change out the frozen buckets in the habitats*** with fresh buckets of hot liquid water.
  - Repeat the following steps in the morning and again in the afternoon.
- ***Partially full/frozen buckets will be stacked*** pyramid style along the back wall inside the water shed.
- ***Unstack the buckets in the shed*** and make sure you have one bucket labeled for each occupied habitat present.
  - It is important that the same bucket return to the habitat it came from so as not to risk disease transmission between different groups.
- ***Scoop out any remaining ice in the buckets*** with a strainer and top off the buckets with hot water.
  - Depending on the expected outside temperature, add ¼ to ½ bucket of hot water to each.
  - If the existing bucket is too full to do this, dump some water from each bucket at the pond to make room for the hot water.
  - Please do not fill the buckets more than ¾ full.
- ***Carry the warm water bucket to the habitat*** that matches the number on the side of the bucket and replace it for the frozen one.
  1. Unclip the chains from the sides of the bucket holder and lift up.
  2. Pull the frozen bucket out and place the warm one underneath, making sure the side with the tape with the habitat number and the handle are pressed against the fence.
  3. Lower and re-secure the bucket holder, making sure it fits flat on the top of the bucket.
- ***Bring the frozen bucket back to the water shed*** and stack it pyramid style along the back wall inside the shed to start melting the ice/warming the water.
- **METHOD 2: Breaking the ice out of a bucket and topping hot water.**
  - This method is for days where temperatures during the day remain above freezing and will hover around freezing during the night.
- ***Take an ice bucket, mallet and ice strainer.*** These are kept in the water shed or hanging on the side of the bucket rack. Ice buckets are water buckets that have tape on them labeling them “ice” or have been chewed on or cracked.
- ***If the ice is thin enough to break:***
  1. Use the mallet to break a hole through the ice on the top of the bucket.
  2. Check to see if the water is clean\*.
    - a. If it is, proceed to 3 below.
    - b. If it isn't, follow the directions for changing out the water bucket.
  3. Gently tap around the outside of the bucket to loosen the ice from the plastic.
    - a. Be careful not to hit too hard. Cold plastic is brittle and can crack easily. It is better to strike the bucket with the side of the mallet, which

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spreads out the force of the impact. Tap all the way around and down to the bottom of the bucket.

4. Remove the ice with the strainer and place it into the ice bucket. **DO NOT** dump any ice on the ground!
  5. Repeat until all the ice has been removed.
  6. Use a clean bucket to pour warm water into the bucket through the fence.
    - a. This can be done later if hot water is not available at this time.
    - b. Please do not fill the buckets more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- ***If the ice is too thick to break***, fill the clean water bucket that has the number matching the habitat that's bucket is being changed and bring it into the habitat.
    1. Unclip the chains from the sides of the bucket holder and lift up.
    2. Pull the old bucket out and place the new one underneath, making sure the side with the tape with the habitat number and the handle are pressed against the fence.
    3. Lower and re-secure the bucket holder, making sure it fits flat on the top of the bucket.
  - ***Do not dump ice or water ANYWHERE in the habitats!*** All ice and water must be taken away from all habitats and walkways before being dumped so as not to create dangerous traction for animals or people. Dump it on the opposite side of the road.
  - ***Bring the dirty bucket back to the watershed for cleaning.***

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**\*About water quality:** Visual assessment of water turbidity is subjective. During the high-water season (spring through early summer), the well water is often a little cloudy. If it comes out of the tap this way, that is fine for wolf use. Otherwise, if the water from your bucket sample is significantly discolored or murky, change it out.

## Using the ATV for Waters

There is a 65-gallon tank on the back of the ATV that facilitates getting water to the wolves.

### Filling the Water Tank with Cold Water – Summer Procedure

1. The generator must be running to get water; if the generator is off, please ask one of the staff to start it for you.
2. Back the ATV up to the watershed so the hose can reach the tank. Make sure the valve on the ATV tank is in the closed position and the short dispensing hose is connected to it.
3. Inside the water shed, make sure the blue valve on the black pipe just below the blue pressure tank is parallel with the pipe. If it is perpendicular, no water will flow through.
4. If a hose is not already connected to the gray faucet, use the hose hanging on the wall in front of the window to connect to the faucet.
5. Place the other end of the hose into the tank.

6. Open the gray faucet.
7. Fill the tank to the desired quantity.
  - a. If you are only topping off buckets, 25-30 gallons is usually sufficient.
  - b. If you are changing out all the buckets you will need at least 60 gallons.
8. Once the tank is full, turn off the gray faucet, remove the hose from the tank, drain it and hanging it back up on the wall.

### **Filling the Water Tank with Warm Water – Winter Procedure**

1. The generator must be running to get water; if the generator is off, please ask one of the staff to start it for you.
2. Back the ATV up to the watershed so the hose can reach the tank. Make sure the valve on the ATV tank is in the open position. It should remain in the open position for the duration of the freezing season to prevent it from freezing shut.
  - a. If the valve is closed it is likely frozen shut. **DO NOT try to force it open!** Call for staff to get it thawed out.
3. Attach the short dispensing hose to the valve on the back on the ATV and place the open end of the hose into a water bucket. During winter the hose should be kept inside the water shed hanging up on the wall to keep it from freezing.
4. Make sure the blue valve on the black pipe just below the blue pressure tank is parallel with the pipe. If it is perpendicular, no water will flow through.
5. Thread the hot water hose that is connected to the tankless propane water heater on the wall through the hooks on the ceiling and out through the notch cut into the top corner of the door; drop the end of the hose into the ATV tank.
  - a. It is important that **the shed door remain CLOSED in the winter\*** so we don't lose the heat from the shed.
6. Make sure the valve at the end of the hot water hose in the tank is in the open position.
7. Open the red faucet at the top of the black pipe; this sends water into the water heater.
8. Monitor the tank valve on the back of the ATV. Eventually the warm water flowing in should loosen the valve enough to be able to shut it without breaking. Depending on the outside temperature this can take up to 5 gallons of water. This is the reason for the bucket!
9. Allow the tank to fill to the desired quantity.
  - a. If you are only topping off between 25-35 gallons is usually sufficient.
  - b. If you are changing out all the buckets you will need at least 60 gallons.
10. The heater should be set to heat the water to about 40°C. At this temperature the water flow is fairly slow and will take longer to fill the tank. **Be patient and DON'T MESS WITH THE HEATER CONTROLS.** If you encounter any problems with the water or the heater, ask staff for assistance!
  - a. The heater has a built-in timer that will turn off the propane after 20 minutes of continual use; however, it does not turn off the water, which will turn cold very quickly. For this reason, if you need more warm water than the first 20 minutes provides, turn off the water at the 20-minute mark; wait for about a minute and start the water again.
11. Once the tank is full, turn off the red faucet, remove the hose from the tank, allow it to drain into a bucket and hang it back up on the wall.

- **IMPORTANT!** Any water that is spilled on the ground WILL turn into ice. If you do not drain the hose; if you leave the hose on the ground; or if you let it hang low to the ground, **it WILL freeze**. Don't do that!!

**\*Concerning the Water Shed in Winter:** The shed is heated by a small propane wall heater and many of the water pipes in the shed are above ground, making them susceptible to freezing during winter. As a result, the doors must be kept closed for the heater to be effective. No matter what activity you are engaged in at the water shed—filling the tank, washing dishes, cleaning totes -- **KEEP THE DOORS CLOSED** during cold weather! Always remember to close the doors behind you when you enter or exit the water shed.

### **Draining the ATV Water Tank**

When you have finished waters, it is **critical** that you drain the remaining water from the tank; otherwise in the summer it will grow algae and in the winter it will freeze.

1. Back the ATV up to the pond next to the parking area and set the parking brake.
2. Open the valve on the tank and let as much of the water as possible drain out.
3. There is a latch on both sides of the ATV that holds the bed in place. Once most of the water is drained out undo the latches and lift the bed up to drain the rest of the water out. There is a prop bar on the driver's side above the rear wheel that will hold the bed up once it engages.
  - a. Please be careful not to lift it too fast or let it tilt up too far as it may cause the peg to break.
4. When all the water has drained, undo the prop bar, tip the bed back down and latch it. DO NOT drop the bed!
5. In the summer, close the valve and leave the hose attached.

In the winter, leave the valve open and remove the hose. The hose should be brought inside the water shed to prevent freezing.