

TABLE 13B

Common Causes of Acute and Chronic Hypernatremia in Dogs and Cats

ACUTE	CHRONIC
Intake of large amounts of sodium chloride (ingestion of salt water, homemade playdough, or salt)	Hypotonic fluid losses (diarrhea, peritonitis, vomiting, kidney disease)
	Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus
	Heatstroke
Infusion of replacement fluids or hypertonic fluids may lead to acute or chronic hypernatremia, depending on how often the patient's sodium concentration is rechecked during hospitalization.	

The 2024 Fluid Therapy Guidelines for Dogs and Cats are available at aaha.org/fluid-therapy.

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2024 AAHA.

