

Drink Up

I often have wondered why, whenever I put a glass of fresh water down on the table next to my bed, my cats came rushing from seemingly nowhere to inspect and then drink it. And when I'd mutter at them, they'd give me a look that said, "What? I was just taste-testing it for you!"

I tried putting down two glasses and, naturally, they drank from both. And it's not because there's a lack of water bowls in the house.

When I stopped to think about it, I realized this is a typical cat quirk. My friend has to leave a glass of water on the kitchen sink for her cat because she refuses to share the water bowl with her littermates.

And when that cat discovered that the cold faucet in the bathtub dripped, she was thrilled — then very annoyed when the plumber arrived to fix it. Now the cat jumps in the bathtub and calls my friend to come and turn the faucet on. Sometimes, my friend leaves it dripping when she goes out for a long time. Her friends think she's crazy, but as a cat person, I can relate.

I admit that I prefer drinking coffee at home out of a particular mug. And I hate drinking out of the dreadful paper receptacles that coffee stores throughout the country have trained us to accept for drinks on the go.

So the question is: Do cats like to drink out of our glasses because those glasses are ours, or do they have preferences just like people?

I decided to experiment. First, I went out and bought pet drinking flutes. I placed one in the bedroom and one at the top of the stairs, leaving

a standard drinking bowl at the feline food station in the kitchen. Bingo! They rushed to the glasses like bees to honey, totally ignoring the bowl.

I'm not sure what clever person invented the pet drinking fountain, but it has certainly solved a lot of problems in many pet households and reduced water bills in those (like my friend) that secretly leave faucets dripping to oblige finicky felines.

I installed one to replace the standard drinking bowl, and I never looked back. Cali loves to drink from the flowing spout, and Fudge prefers the water as it lands in the bowl. When they're downstairs, they no longer rush back upstairs to drink from the flutes.

Fountains come with simple and easy-to-change filters, solving the problem of whether

it's healthier to give your pets tap water versus bottled water.

I know humans are supposed to drink eight glasses of water a day to stay healthy. I'm not sure what the feline equivalent is, but water is very important, especially for cats that eat mostly dry food.

I noticed my cats actually started to drink a bit more as

soon as the glass drinking flutes and the fountain replaced their standard water bowls. Go figure!

The best part is that now they never go near the glass I put out for myself next to the bed. In fact, they're probably wondering why it took me so long to discover their fabulous new water sources. ☺

Sandy Robins is an award-winning pet lifestyle expert who appears regularly on TV, radio and in international publications. She is an obsessed pet owner to her cats Cali and Fudge.



ONE KILLIP

Why your water glass is more tempting than your cat's water bowl.



BY SANDY ROBINS



FROM ROBINS

Some cats are picky about where their water comes from.