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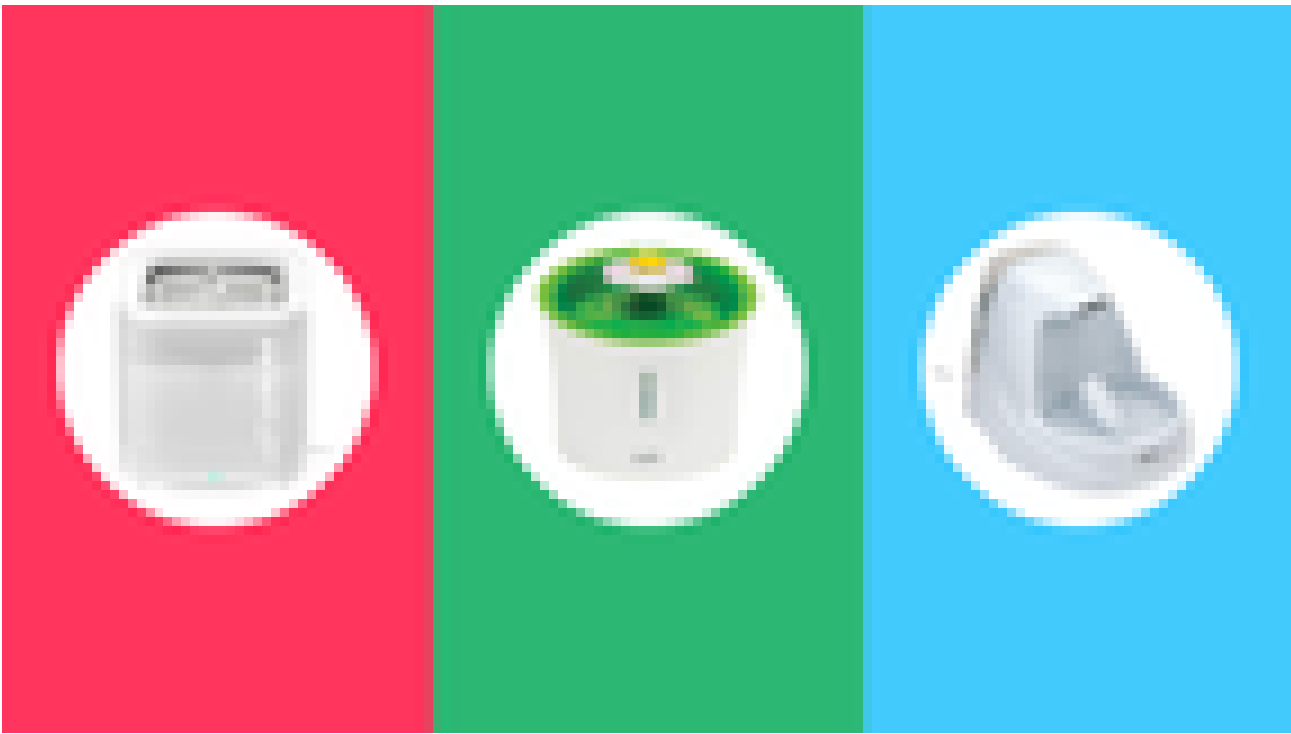
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# The 6 Best Cat Water Fountains, Tested And Pet Approved

Amy Jamieson Contributor 

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Just like all animals, cats need water to live—they just don't always act like it. Designed to make hydrating more enticing, the best cat water fountains provide fresh, flowing water around the clock, helping your pets stay healthy and hydrated. After testing ten popular models with crucial help from my three cats, I believe the [Petkit Eversweet Solo SE](#) is the top option for most cat owners, thanks to its wireless pump and ultra-quiet operation.



The best cat water fountains provide fresh, flowing water around the clock, helping your pets stay ...

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Here are all the winners from my testing process:

- **Best Cat Water Fountain Overall:** [Petkit Eversweet Solo SE](#)
- **Best Value Cat Water Fountain:** [Catit Flower Fountain](#)
- **Best Stainless Steel Cat Water Fountain:** [Rellaty Stainless Steel Cat Water Fountain](#)
- **Best Ceramic Cat Water Fountain:** [Cepheus 360 Ceramic Pet Fountain](#)
- **Best Large-Capacity Cat Water Fountain:** [Petsafe Drinkwell Platinum Pet Fountain](#)
- **Easiest-To-Clean Cat Water Fountain:** [Pioneer Pet Raindrop Stainless Steel Drinking Fountain](#)

There's a reason cats have a low thirst drive: Domestic felines are descendants of desert-dwelling animals that relied on prey for hydration. In other words, "they weren't necessarily always seeking out water sources," says [Dr. Deborah Linder](#),

DVM, DACVIM, associate clinical professor at Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. That said, cats are instinctively drawn to moving water, hence the existence of pet-specific water fountains. While cats don't need quite as much H<sub>2</sub>O as dogs to stay hydrated, it's essential they drink enough (about 4 ounces of water per 5 pounds of body weight per day), as dehydration can cause a suite of digestive, kidney and urinary issues. Ahead, here are the very best cat water fountains to help your pet live their healthiest life.

## Best Cat Water Fountain Overall

### A Whisper-Quiet Pick With A Clever Design



AMAZON

### Petkit Eversweet Solo SE

\$30 At Amazon

\$30 At Petkit

**Dimensions:** 7 x 7 x 7 inches | **Material:** Plastic | **Capacity:** 1.8 liters |  
**Weight:** 2.2 pounds | **Filter life span:** 30 days

### **Best for:**

- Small spaces
- Pet owners who want something easy to clean
- Those who prefer something quiet

### **Skip if:**

- You need a large-capacity fountain

There's a lot to love about the Petkit Eversweet Solo SE, which earned the highest marks during testing. Featuring an ultra-quiet bubbling fountain, this pick immediately attracted my three cats and won me over with its unique, easy-to-clean design and long filter life span.

Whereas most cat water fountains have wires that connect the entire device to the wall, the Eversweet Solo has a separate reservoir and base, which makes the fountain a breeze to refill and clean—you can take the tank off the base and bring it to your sink to add fresh water or clean the interior parts. And while most fountains have wiring throughout, the main body of this one has none inside; the pump is wireless, so you don't have to worry about electrical cords making contact with water. During testing, I was also impressed by the filter, which contains a mix of coconut-shell activated charcoal and ion-exchange resin to reduce heavy metals and odors. Just as importantly, it was effective at capturing small pieces of dry food and hair—and it has a relatively long lifespan. (The fountain comes with one filter, and a [pack of five](#) costs just under \$20. Because the filter needs to be changed only every 30 days or so, you shouldn't have to spend much more than \$50 a year on replacement filters.)





My two kittens were very eager to drink from the Petkit water fountain. AMY JAMIESON

Another top feature of this model is that it can sense when water levels are low, at which point it automatically powers down to prevent the model's motor from burning out. The indicator light also flashes blue to help notify you of the fountain's status. Just keep in mind that the fountain's capacity is on the smaller side (it's tied for the smallest I tested), so you need to stay on top of refilling it more than you would with most other models. That said, I had to add more water only once a week for my three cats.

The only annoying thing about this model is what's missing: a USB power adapter. Additionally, it doesn't come with the most detailed paper instruction

manual. To get more information regarding use and cleaning, you have to use a QR code.

## Best Value Cat Water Fountain

A Cute, Popular Option For Cats On A Budget



AMAZON

### Catit Flower Fountain

\$28 At Amazon

\$28 At Chewy

**Dimensions:** 8.3 x 8.7 x 7.5 inches | **Material:** Plastic | **Capacity:** 3 liters |

**Weight:** 1.3 pounds | **Filter life span:** 30 days

**Best for:**

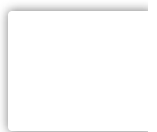
- Fountain-curious folks who want their cats to try flowing water
- Those who want something lightweight
- Options in terms of flow

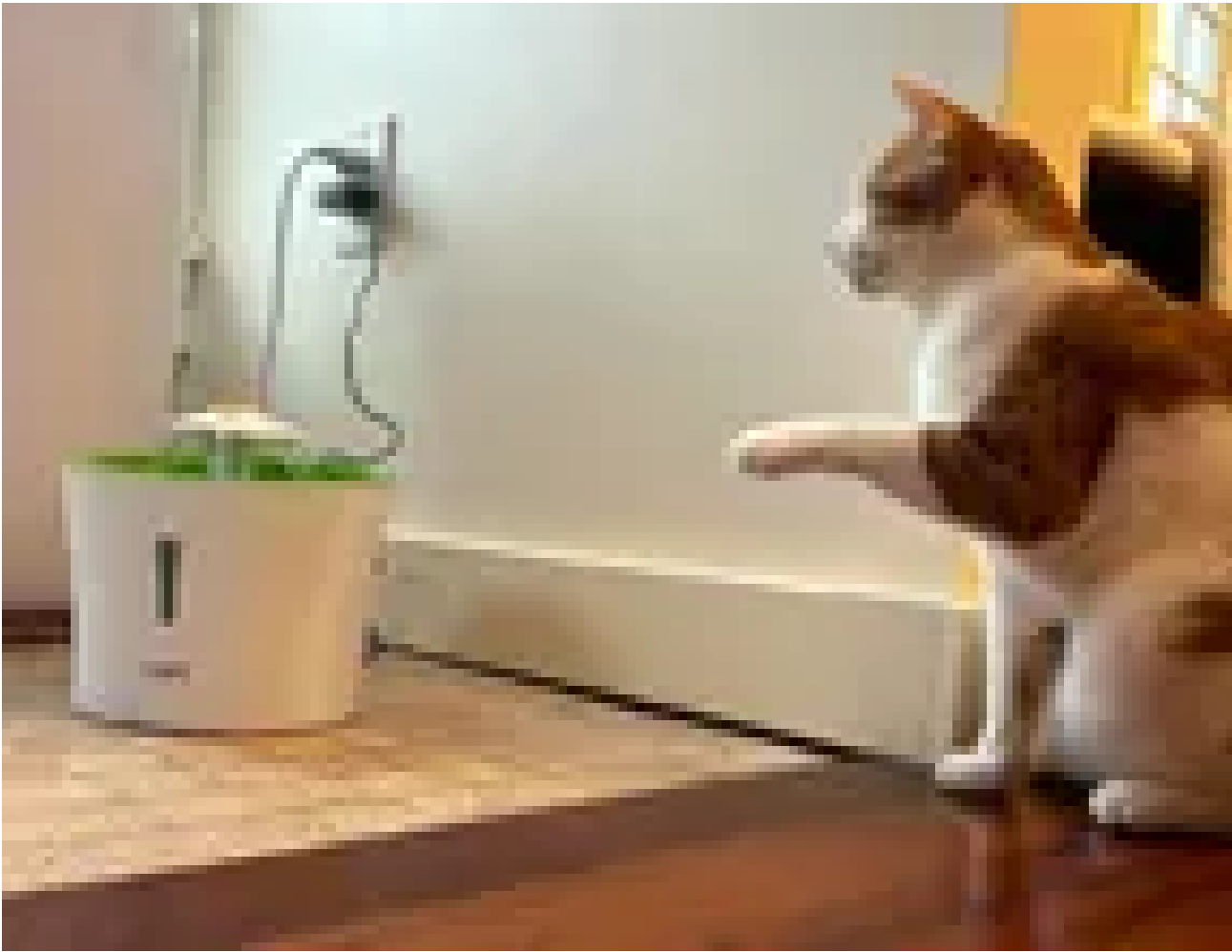
**Skip if:**

- You don't want a plastic fountain
- You want the easiest-to-clean option

If you know a lot of cat people, chances are at least one of them has owned a Catit Flower Fountain. Cute and affordable, this plastic fountain is a longtime bestseller with an iconic design that proved itself the best budget-friendly pick during testing.

Featuring a 3-liter capacity, the fountain features three different flow modes to suit your cat's drinking preferences. When the plastic flower in the body's center is fully intact, water flows down through the petals. If you take out the flower's yellow center, water comes up in the middle before cascading down the petals. And when you remove the flower entirely, the water bubbles up in a similar way to the Petkit. During testing, my curious kittens were drawn to the fountain right away, though my blind cat was slightly more cautious of its water and motor sounds. That's one thing to keep in mind: It does give off a faint buzzing sound as it operates, though I didn't find it too disruptive.





My blind cat approached the Catit a little more cautiously due to the sound of its motor. AMY JAMIESON

The main downside of this no-frills model is that it's not the easiest to clean. While the carbon filter did a fair job of capturing debris in the water, the fountain has a lot of crevices (in the flower petals, specifically) that are more difficult to wash. And to ensure the motor enjoys a long life, it's essential to give the fountain thorough, regular cleanings. If your motor ever dies, though, just know that you can buy a [replacement pump](#).

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## Best Stainless Steel Cat Water Fountain

A Sleek, Larger Pick That's Easy To Fill And Clean





AMAZON

## Rollaty Stainless Steel Cat Water Fountain

**\$35** ~~\$37~~ **SAVE \$2 (5%)**

Buy From Amazon

**Dimensions:** 9.9 x 7.5 x 4.5 inches | **Material:** Stainless steel | **Capacity:** 3.2 liters | **Weight:** 1.7 pounds | **Filter life span:** Two to four weeks

### Best for:

- Those who prefer stainless steel to other materials
- Easy setup and dishwasher cleaning
- Holding a lot of water

### Skip if:

- You have playful, water-curious cats
- Visible cords are your pet peeve

Stainless steel cat water fountains are popular for a few reasons: They're durable, easy to clean and resistant to bacterial growth. If you're drawn to those strengths, the Rellaty is a sleek, large-capacity pick that's a breeze to set up and almost as quiet as the Petkit. My cats seemed to like it, too—they all drank from it during testing.

In this model, water cycles up from the base and out both sides of a T-shaped faucet in the middle of the reservoir, where cats can drink from the spout or the basin. It also comes equipped with an activated-carbon filter and pre-filter layer, which have a life span of two to four weeks, and a [pack of eight](#) replacements costs just under \$20. While many cat owners report few issues with the filter, during testing, debris gathered around the small slit at the top of the drinking area. Water continued to flow, but if more fur or food had accumulated, there could've been issues. Thankfully, the fountain is easy to clean. Save for the pump and filter, all the stainless steel parts can go in the dishwasher, plus the fountain comes with a small brush for cleaning the T-shaped faucet and motor.

Based on testing, the model has one other small drawback. Like many stainless steel fountains, the Rellaty—which weighs in at 1.7 pounds—is relatively light. While you appreciate that light weight when carrying it over to the sink to fill it up, it can cause problems if you have a mischievous cat who's prone to playing in their water. At one point, one of my cats managed to move the fountain's top, leaving it tilted. Lastly, the filters have a relatively short life span: My suggestion would be to choose one of the purchase packages with several filters included, since the brand's recommendation is to change the filter every two to four weeks.

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## Best Ceramic Cat Water Fountain

### A Pretty, Heavy Option That Bubbles





AMAZON

## Cepheus 360 Ceramic Pet Fountain

\$63

[Buy From Amazon](#)

**Dimensions:** 9.4 x 9.4 x 4.7 inches | **Material:** Ceramic | **Capacity:** 2.1 liters |

**Weight:** 6 pounds | **Filter life span:** Two to four weeks

### Best for:

- People who prefer a heavier fountain
- Spaces where a circular shape is best
- Pet parents who don't like stainless steel or plastic

### Skip if:



- You're on a budget
- You prefer something lightweight

If you're in the market for a premium, good-looking fountain that even the strongest cats struggle to tip over, your best bet is one made from ceramic, like this high-end pick from Cepheus. Weighing in at 6 pounds, this fountain isn't going anywhere if your pet decides to get up to no good. Just keep in mind that it's even heavier when full, so carrying it to and from the sink to refill it requires some arm strength.

Upon unboxing the fountain, I had some difficulty setting it up, as I found the diagrams in the instruction manual to be unclear. Once I got all the parts together, though, the fountain impressed me. Unlike many ceramic models, which are filterless, this one comes equipped with an activated-carbon filter that captured some (but not all) of the debris I placed in the fountain. While the motor gave off a slight hum, the bubbling fountain was whisper-quiet. Additionally, all three of my cats were able to drink from it without feeling crowded, and my two kittens were especially drawn to the bubbling water in the center.

While I didn't find this machine difficult to clean, I did have to use a pair of pliers to open the motor, per the brand's instructions. Lastly, it goes without saying that this pick, with its low-profile circular design, is one of the prettiest I tested. I only wish the cord were neutral to match the fountain's body.

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## Best Large-Capacity Cat Water Fountain

**A Bigger Model That Offers Long-Lasting Refreshment**





AMAZON

## Petsafe Drinkwell Platinum Pet Fountain

\$55 ~~\$60~~ SAVE \$5 (8%)

Buy From Amazon

**Dimensions:** 15.75 x 10.5 x 10 inches | **Material:** Plastic | **Capacity:** 5 liters |

**Weight:** 4.9 pounds | **Filter lifespan:** Two to four weeks

### Best for:

- Those with multiple pets
- People who prefer plastic construction
- Flow control options

### Skip if:

- You don't like water sounds
- You need a compact or lightweight fountain

For those seeking a heavyweight fountain you don't have to refill frequently or those who have multiple pets (dogs included), the Petsafe Drinkwell Platinum Pet Fountain—the largest model I tested—can hold over a gallon of water. Though it's not the sleekest option out there, I was impressed by its sturdiness and adjustable water flow.



The two kittens were very interested in the Drinkwell Platinum. AMY JAMIESON

With this fountain, your pet can either drink from the bowl at the base or from the main stream, the latter of which has two settings. (To adjust the flow, twist the control knob located in the main bowl.) Overall, I found it easy to use. Setting it up didn't take long, as the motor came already in place. Filling it, on the other hand, took a little practice; you need to add water to the reservoir on the back,

then flip it upside down and into place with water inside. Though it's not the quietest model out there, as there's a decent amount of distance between the faucet and the bottom of the model, it's not marketed as a whisper-quiet device. Additionally, it didn't seem to bother my cats: All three were curious about this fountain, and most importantly, they drank from it. Just keep in mind that if you have multiple pets drinking from this fountain—especially if one of those is a dog—you might need to change the filter more frequently than every two to four weeks.

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## **Easiest-To-Clean Cat Water Fountain**

**A Low-Profile Pick Made From Stainless Steel**



AMAZON

**Pioneer Pet Raindrop Stainless Steel Drinking Fountain**

\$41 At Amazon

\$41 At Petco

**Dimensions:** 11.75 x 9.75 x 4.25 inches | **Material:** Stainless steel | **Capacity:** 1.8 liters | **Weight:** 1.7 pounds | **Filter life span:** Two to four weeks

### Best for:

- Those who want a dishwasher-safe fountain
- A small and lightweight construction
- Details like a unique design and adjustable flow

### Skip if:

- Sturdiness is important to you
- You need something that holds a lot of water

With a low-profile raindrop shape and circulating flow, this stainless steel pick from Pioneer Pet has a certain Zen quality that makes it stand out from all the other fountains. Its ease of cleaning sets it apart, too. Featuring a two-piece construction, all parts—save for the motor—can go in the dishwasher. And if you prefer to hand-wash, you can expect just as effortless of a cleaning process, thanks to its stainless steel construction with no hard-to-reach areas.

Compared to the other fountains, this one was a little tricky to set up; in particular, placing the pump inside the filtering pod took me a minute. (Like most models on this list, the fountain uses a charcoal filter.) Once the top was securely on and it was ready to flow, though, the cats gravitated toward it. When I put crushed-up cat food in the water to test its filtration, I found most of it



collected in the bottom drinking well—something to be mindful of if your pet prefers to drink from there, as opposed to the water slide above.

One note: While my cats didn't seem to be interested in moving it around with their paws, the fountain was lightweight when full *and* empty. If you have an especially playful cat who likes to, say, swat items off countertops, you might be better off with a heavier option.

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## Other Cat Water Fountains I Tested

In total, I tested ten cat water fountains, four of which didn't earn quite as high of marks as the models listed above. While these fountains didn't fare as well for me for one reason or another, they still might be a solid choice for you.

**[Petlibro Capsule Water Fountain](#)**: This is a sturdy plastic model that's easy to take apart and clean, and many cat owners would be happy with this fountain. I, for one, like that it offers two flow modes and comes with a USB plug.

Ultimately, though, the Petkit has the edge on it. The Petlibro wasn't quite as quiet, plus the filter (which has only a two-week life span) didn't capture all the debris I placed in the fountain.

**[Veken Pet Fountain](#)**: Slippery—that's the word that pops up the most in my evaluation of this plastic fountain. Made of a matte plastic, the Veken is heavy when full (it holds 2.8 liters), and it nearly slipped out of my hands several times

when filling and taking it to my sink. Ultimately, I found the Catit to be the better budget-friendly option, as the Veken costs more and holds less water.

**Cat Mate 3-Level**: Unfortunately, this fountain missed the mark in a few ways. To start, it was difficult to set up, as I found the instructional diagrams to be confusing. Additionally, on two occasions, I struggled to get the model to power up; both times, I realized the motor's plug wasn't fully connected. And while I appreciated its lightweight build when filling it up, my kittens were able to move it with their paws.

**Petsafe Drinkwell Pagoda Fountain**: This ceramic, pagoda-style fountain is pretty—but loud. While my kittens were curious about the water sounds, my blind cat, who is more sensitive to unfamiliar noises, was wary. I eventually had to unplug this ceramic fountain because the sound of the flowing water made it hard to sleep at night.

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## How I Tested The Best Cat Water Fountains

To determine the best cat water fountains on the market, I started by conducting research into ten of the most popular models. Then, over the course of two months, I installed each one in my master bathroom for a week at a time, where I assessed the quality, ease of use and cleaning, durability and additional features. Crucially, my three cats—two kittens and one older cat, who is blind—helped me out.

After unboxing each model, I analyzed the design and feel, noting whether the model felt budget or more high-end. While testing, I evaluated how well water flowed through each one, paying close attention to the noise level—especially if the model was marketed as “quiet.” I also, of course, observed how my cats responded to the fountains. Most importantly, did they drink water from each model? And were they able to move the fountains with their paws, indicating flimsiness? Then, to test the filter, I put bits of crushed kitten food and dust in each fountain to see how well each one filtered it from the drinking water. To



finish up, I took apart each fountain and cleaned it according to the brand's instructions, considering how easy it was to deconstruct and hand-wash the parts.

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## How To Pick A Cat Water Fountain

Do you struggle to get your cat to drink water? A cat water fountain might be the best solution. Ahead, here's what to keep in mind if you're torn between a few models.

### Design

Though most cat fountains function similarly, they come in a variety of configurations. Some have one drinking area where water essentially bubbles up in the middle of the reservoir, while others feature cascading water. One style isn't inherently better—it all depends on what your cat prefers. Additionally, cat fountains come in a few different materials like plastic, ceramic and stainless steel. While plastic models tend to be more affordable, ceramic and stainless steel options are typically easier to clean. Additionally, “some cats have a contact allergy to plastic and will develop facial irritation from plastic,” notes [Dr. Lori Bierbrier](#), senior medical director of ASPCA Community Medicine. “For those cats, stainless steel or other nonporous materials are recommended.” Just keep in mind that finding the right material for your cat might involve some trial and error. “I usually recommend folks just try different materials because cats can have very interesting and very strong preferences,” says Dr. Linder.



The Rellaty cat water fountain features a T-shaped faucet. AMY JAMIESON

## Capacity

Most cat fountains hold between 2 and 3 liters of water, though you can certainly find both larger and smaller models. (The [Petsafe Drinkwell Platinum](#), for example, has a 5-liter capacity.) To determine the size that makes sense for you, you first want to consider how many pets will be using it. If you have multiple cats, you might opt for a larger model that you have to refill less frequently. Just keep in mind that the higher the capacity, the larger the model's footprint.

## Noise

While few cat water fountains are disruptively loud, some models make more noise than others. For those who don't like water sounds, look for a model where the water bubbles up from below—not one with cascading streams. Also keep in mind that most fountains' motors emit a quiet humming sound. If that noise ever turns into a louder humming or grinding, something's probably wrong. First

check to see if the water level is low, then make sure the pump isn't clogged with pet hair or other debris.

## Ease Of Cleaning

“Water fountains can get really gross and grungy, and they can harbor a lot of bacteria, especially if you don't clean them regularly,” says [Dr. Marci Koski](#), [CFTBS](#), [CFTBP](#), a certified feline behavior and training consultant in Vancouver, Washington. Therefore, you want to get a fountain you trust yourself to clean on a regular basis—even if you dread the chore. While some models have dishwasher-safe parts, others need to be hand-washed. Additionally, some models are simply harder to disassemble, often due to their wiring. You also want to take into consideration the fountain's filter life span and the cost of replacement filters, both of which impact the overall ease of maintenance.

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## My Expertise

I'm a writer and editor with more than two decades of experience. I was the founding senior editor of People.com's pets channel, and during my time at the website, I often reviewed pet, baby and parenting gear. More recently, I've been reviewing products for outlets like Consumer Reports and U.S. News & World Report. For Forbes Vetted, I've tested [heated blankets](#) and written a number of pet-related stories, including roundups of the [best cat carriers](#), [dog treats](#) and [dog toys](#). I'm also—and this is relevant to this piece—a cat lover. Last year, our family adopted a sweet but cautious blind cat and two rambunctious kitten siblings, and these discerning three were my copilots in the testing process.

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