REPLACING AN ACTUATOR ROD on The Drinking Post Waterer

Materials needed to complete this repair:

- Metal file
- Pliers
- Hacksaw
- New actuator rod (3/16" stainless steel rod)

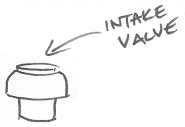
1. Remove the paddle from the bowl.

2. With a pair of pliers, pull straight up on the metal actuator rod protruding from the bowl filter. Once the rod is loose it should easily feed up and out.

3. Take your new rod and feed it (smooth end 1st) into the hole of the bowl filter. Be careful not to bend your new rod. **Don't drop It In!! Dropping it in could damage the valve housing.**

4. Spin the rod with no downward pressure to make sure your rod is resting on the Intake valve and doesn't want to "fall" any further.

5. The intake valve is a rubber material, rounded on the top as illustrated. In the center of the intake valve is a hole the exact diameter of the actuator rod.



6. Mark your rod even with the top of the bowl filter while the rod is resting on top of the intake valve but not pushed down into it yet.

7. Now, push down **gently** and twist slightly until you have seated the rod completely into the intake valve. You should have fed another 3/8" of rod into the post.

8. Mark the rod even with the bowl filter a second time. Pull the rod up and straight out of the post.

9. Your two' marks should be about 3/8" apart.

10. Measure from your **LAST** mark and cut the rod so it is **1/2"** *longer* than your last mark.
    - Cut longer rather than shorter as you can always go back and file a little more off.
    - Make sure you do not bend the rod while cutting, filing, or sawing the end.
    - Make your cut straight.
    - File the rough edges off the rod after you make your cut. You want a perpendicular cut with slightly rounded edges.

11. Reinsert the rod… give it the last little push to seat it and then measure the length standing above the filter. **It must not be longer than 1/2" or shorter than 7/16".**

12. If it is a little long it is easy to file it down to the correct size. Your end result should stand 7/16" to 1/2" above the bowl filter. **It must not be longer than 1/2" or shorter than 7/16". If the rod is measured and cut in cold weather, be sure to cut on the long/tall side of the spectrum, as the rod will appear to get slightly shorter in the hottest months of the year do to expansion of materials in the waterer in heat.**

13. Reattach paddle. If the paddle is held tightly in place by the height of the rod, loosen the screws holding the paddle in place until you have a small amount of play, or wiggle room, in the paddle's action. If you find that the rod is held tightly in place during your hottest months of the year you may choose to remove the rod and file a little bit off the end until you have a small amount of play, or wiggle room, in the paddle's action. You will find that the rod may *appear* to get *slightly* longer in the winter months and shorter in the summer months. This is due to the expansion and contraction of the materials in the waterer.