

Pi-hole Watchdog & Maintenance Guide

■ One-liner Health Summary

Run this command anytime to check the status of Pi-hole and the watchdog:

```
echo "=== Pi-hole FTL ==="; systemctl is-active pihole-FTL; \  
echo "=== Watchdog Timer ==="; systemctl is-active pihole-watchdog.timer; \  
echo "=== Last Watchdog Events ==="; journalctl -t pihole-watchdog -n 5 --no-pager
```

Expected healthy output:

```
=== Pi-hole FTL ===  
active  
=== Watchdog Timer ===  
active  
=== Last Watchdog Events ===  
... service started/deactivated successfully ...
```

■ Taking the Pi Offline Safely

Before powering down your Raspberry Pi:

```
sudo systemctl stop pihole-FTL  
sudo systemctl stop pihole-watchdog.timer  
sudo shutdown -h now
```

■ Bringing the Pi Back Online

When you plug the Pi back in, both pihole-FTL and the watchdog timer will auto-start. Verify with:

```
systemctl status pihole-FTL --no-pager  
systemctl status pihole-watchdog.timer --no-pager
```

If needed, restart manually:

```
sudo systemctl restart pihole-FTL  
sudo systemctl restart pihole-watchdog.timer
```

■ Quick Recap

- Use the health summary command to check everything at once.
- Stop services + shutdown before powering off the Pi.
- On boot, services auto-start — just verify with `systemctl status`.
- If anything is inactive, restart it with `systemctl restart`.