



Save Money on Pet Care

We all want to take care of our pets, but it can get expensive. You don't want to save a few pennies now and have to spend big dollars later. Too often waiting will cost more in the end.

Preventive Care

Preventive care can be one of the best investments you make for your pet. A healthy pet is less likely to come down with expensive diseases. Don't skip on regular exams and preventive testing. They can find problems at an early stage when they are easier and cheaper to treat.



Vaccinations are important as they protect against diseases that may be expensive to treat (or fatal). However, your pet may not need all of them or as frequently. We try to minimize the number your pet receives. Yearly heartworm tests for dogs and stool checks for dogs and cats are important to treat these parasites quickly.

Regular heartworm preventive medicine is worth the cost for all your pets, including indoor cats. It is much cheaper to prevent than to treat. Regular flea and tick medicine is also money well spent. These parasites can give your pet some horrible diseases on top of making your pet miserable.



Regular dental cleanings is another important area that you don't want to skip. Dental disease can have a serious impact on your pet's health. It makes your pet prone to other diseases as well.

Studies have shown that your pet can actually live longer by having its teeth cleaned when needed (which is often yearly).

Keeping your pet at a normal weight will save you money. Obese pets are more prone to diabetes, arthritis, and heart disease. All of these conditions will require long-term medications to control.

Cheap food usually won't save you money in the end. Although your pet can live on cheap food, it often won't thrive on it. Your pet's immune system is often not as healthy as it should be. Your pet will be more prone to diseases when it is older. Vitamins and supplements are a good investment by keeping your pet as healthy as possible.

Yes, preventive care costs money now, but it can save you much bigger bucks later on.

Speak Up

If you can't afford the treatment plan your veterinarian has given you, speak up. There may be other options for treating your pet. Some may not be ideal but they may be better than doing nothing because you can't afford the first plan. Find out what will happen if you delay tests or treatment.

In some cases, waiting will cost you more money but it's important for you to know that. One example is whether to remove small lumps. If you wait and they continue to grow, the surgery will take more time and be more expensive later.

Prescription Drugs

There's no question about it – many drugs are expensive. That's especially true if they are newer and there isn't a generic available. We always try to use generics whenever possible to save you money. Unfortunately, just being generic doesn't necessarily make it cheap. Some of the generics have sky rocketed in price in recent years.

You may be able to save money by purchasing your pet's drugs from an online pharmacy. You must be cautious, though. Not all the pharmacies are reputable and you may be getting counterfeit drugs. Read our article, *Prescription Drugs*, for more information.

Do Your Homework

Searching "Dr. Google" for information on your pet's health can be helpful – or harmful. Unfortunately, there are plenty of websites with wrong or misleading information. Look for websites from universities or major pet organizations.



Headache
It's a Brain Tumor!

Researching about a condition your pet has is a great idea. The better informed you are, the better you can

make the right decisions. Researching your pet's signs to figure out what is wrong with them in the first place can be treacherous. It's important to have your pet examined to verify it's what you thought it was. Too often, signs fit many conditions and it may be impossible to diagnose correctly without some additional tests. This is where waiting can become more expensive.

When You Need Help

Emergencies come up or your pet gets sick and you need to treat him NOW. You just paid your mortgage and car payment and insurance is due. You can't afford the estimate so what do you do?

Consider this ahead of time so you know what options are available to you when the time comes. We will accept Care Credit, a health credit card that may be easier to get than a conventional card. It can also be used at dentists and other doctors.

Before that illness strikes, look into pet insurance. Many companies offer plans now and you can make sure your pet gets the care it needs when he needs it. Unless you can easily afford an unexpected bill of \$2,000 - \$3,000, look into pet insurance.



Finally, you might start a savings account for your pet. Put a little money into it every week and build up a fund to pay for unexpected medical bills. Talk to family members before you need help to see who might be able to give you a loan if needed.

A Perfect World

Veterinarians love pets and want to do everything possible for them. Unfortunately, they need to charge for what they do if they want to pay their own bills. In a perfect world, pets wouldn't get sick and everyone would have more than enough money to take care of them. In our real world, we need to plan ahead for what we will do if our pets get sick and do all the preventive care we can to help them stay healthy.