

Pet Insurance Guide: Summary of Key Points

- Pet health insurance helps pay the cost of medical expenses if your pet becomes ill or has an accident.
- Some pet insurance plans also offer Routine and Wellness coverage (reimbursement for vaccinations, healthy annual exams, spaying/neutering, etc.) as well.
- Pet insurance is best used to help mitigate or soften the economic shock of unexpected, high veterinary bills.
- As with any insurance (auto, property, etc.), there is a chance that you will get back from the insurance less than you paid because your pet stayed healthy and did not have any accidents.
- On the flip side, there is a chance that you will get back more than you put in if your pet has bouts of bad luck.

Because either scenario is possible, **pet insurance should not be used with the expectation to save money. It should be used to soften the blow if something unexpected happens, and to help you provide optimal medical care for your pet that you may not otherwise be able to afford.**

- Do not pick pet insurance based on cost. Pick it based on the coverage it provides.
- Pet insurance is similar to human health insurance in its use of deductibles, co-pays and maximum payouts.
- With pet insurance you pay the veterinary bill directly to the veterinarian and then you are reimbursed by the pet insurance company after you file your claim.
- With most pet insurance you can visit any licensed veterinarian in the US. Some plans also allow you to visit a licensed veterinarian in another country while traveling.
- Before you buy pet insurance, determine if you need it (see "Pet Insurance Test" on our website.)
- Make sure you pick the right Maximum Payout structure. Calculate your "Worst Case Scenario Costs" (the threshold beyond which you would not be able to pay for your pet's injury or illness – this will vary for everyone) and pick a Maximum Payout structure based on it.
- If possible, pick plans that have:
 - Coverage for Cancer
 - Coverage for Hereditary & Congenital Diseases
 - Coverage for Chronic Disease
 - Continual Coverage for Chronic Diseases
 - Coverage for Medical Conditions Common to your Pet's Breed & Species
- **Read** the written policy of the pet insurance company. Make sure you understand all the exclusions and requirements listed in the policy.
- **Do not wait** until your pet has an illness or injury before you buy pet insurance as it will be considered a pre-existing condition and will not be covered by your policy. Get pet insurance as early as possible.

Never buy pet insurance without doing your research.

Go to www.pet-insurance-university.com for comprehensive information on choosing a plan, and www.petinsurancereview.com for consumer reviews.