



Pet Insurance and Alternatives

Throughout the year, unexpected trips to the vet are not uncommon. Any companion animal can fall ill or get injured, and like humans, cats require annual checkups. But vet visits can be expensive. That's why many pet owners choose to purchase Pet Insurance or set up a special Veterinary Fund where they save money for future vet bills.

MEOW encourages all pet owners to think about the financial implications of pet ownership—of which veterinary care is one of the most important factors to consider. Whether it be an emergency or a routine checkup, responsible pet ownership includes being able to pay for veterinary care when your pet needs you the most. Keep in mind, emergency veterinary care may cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars.

Pet Insurance

There are several Pet Insurance companies offering Pet Insurance in Alberta, Canada. These include:

- HBC Pet Insurance - www.petinsurancehbc.com
- PC Pet Insurance - www.pcinsurance.ca
- PetCare Pet Insurance Programs - www.petcareinsurance.com
- Petsecure - www.petsecure.com
- Trupanion - www.trupanion.com/canada

Pet Insurance policies have annual premiums, deductibles, and various coverage options available based on your wants and needs. Most plans also have co-pays and cap the limit on how much can be paid out annually. Remember, just like human insurance policies, there are often restrictions such as:

- Older pets may not be covered
- Certain breeds can be excluded from coverage
- Animals with pre-existing conditions are often excluded

The cost of policies varies by company and plan, so it pays to do your homework on the different options available to you. Some plans are comprehensive, including such things as annual checkups and vaccinations, death benefits and even reimbursement for offering a reward for a lost pet. Other plans cover only accidents and illness. If you need help picking the right plan for your cat, you can talk to your veterinarian or visit a review website like www.petinsurancereview.com. All pet insurance companies offer free quotes.

Alternatives to Pet Insurance

Perhaps your cat is ineligible for pet insurance coverage. Or maybe you aren't interested in purchasing pet insurance at this time. Making other financial plans to pay for your cat's lifetime veterinary costs is important and necessary. Here are some alternatives to pet insurance to help cover these costs.

- Set up a special Savings Account with your bank. Consider setting up automatic monthly payments to make saving easier
- Have a separate Credit Card set aside for emergencies
- Have a Line of Credit with your bank for emergencies
- Check with your vet to see if they offer Payment Plans on approved credit to pay off vet bills in stages
- Keep a healthy bank account so you are able to pay out of pocket in the event of veterinary costs

No matter what method or type of plan you choose, creating a plan now will allow you to make the best choice possible for you and your pet in the case of an emergency or financial crisis in the provision of critical care for your pet. Learn more about keeping your cat safe and healthy by downloading MEOW Foundation's free Cat Health & Safety info sheet.

