

Is Pet Insurance Worth the Cost?

Do you consider your pets part of the family? Isn't ensuring your loved ones are financially protected part of showing you care for them? If so, buying a [pet insurance plan for your furry friends](#) shouldn't be a question. It should be a reality.

Seeing your pets suffer from chronic and terminal illnesses is heartbreaking enough. Knowing that you cannot afford the treatment is even more gut-wrenching. A visit to the veterinarian can cost \$50 to \$100 depending on the procedures your pet needs. Imagine how much surgery will cost. It will cost tens of thousands of dollars to treat cancer in dogs and cats. The more complex the procedure is, the bigger the charges.

With pet insurance, you can make sure that you can always shoulder the costs of vet treatments for your pet. Keep reading to learn more about the vet procedures the insurance can help you with.

The Most Common Veterinarian Procedures and Their Costs

Annually, taking care of a dog will cost \$1,450, while cats are cheaper at around \$1,200. These costs include food, grooming, toys and accessories such as collars, and vet visits. The larger the breed of the dog, the more expensive it is to take care of them. Medium breeds will cost an average of \$1,780, while large breeds will demand \$2,000. Smaller animals, such as rabbits, ferrets, and guinea pigs, are less expensive to maintain.

How much a [vet visit costs](#) over the pet's lifetime will depend on its lifestyle, breed, and other complications. On average, regular vet visits should cost as follows:

- Grooming - \$30 to \$500 annually
- Flea and tick control - \$40 to \$200 annually
- Spay - \$100 to \$200
- Neuter - \$50 to \$100
- Teeth cleaning - \$50 to \$300 per visit
- Vaccinations - \$10 to \$50 per shot
- Heartworm - \$40 to \$50
- Ear infection - \$40
- Diarrhea - \$200 to \$400

But these are not all the health-related concerns your pets will have in the long run. They could also have hereditary diseases, or they can get complicated health problems as they grow older. [Larger breeds of dogs](#) tend to have more health problems despite being active and energetic throughout their lives.

Emergency and complex medical cases often cost thousands of dollars. For example, cancer in dogs will cost \$4,000 because of chemotherapy. Managing diabetes will average \$2,800, while broken bone surgery will be around \$2,300. Other complex medical cases, such as a foreign object in the stomach, urinary tract infection, kidney disease, heart murmur, arthritis, and dental disease, will also average thousands of dollars.

How Much Does Pet Insurance Cost?

On average, pet insurance costs \$50 per month for dogs and \$28 to \$30 for cats. Such policies will usually cover accidents and illnesses. But the truth is that many pet owners pay as much as \$100 or sometimes more for pet insurance. This will depend on several factors, including the age, health condition, and breed of the pets. Where you live will most likely factor into the cost of the pet insurance, too.

Pet insurance tends to be more expensive for dogs than it is for cats. Larger breeds and older pets also have higher premiums because they are more susceptible to illnesses and accidents. The older your pets get, the more expensive pet insurance will be. This is why it is most advisable to bring your pets insured when they are very young.

Insurance costs differ among breeds as well. The most expensive breeds to get insured are the Labrador retriever, bulldog, and golden retriever. The bulldog costs around \$50 per month, while the Labrador retriever and golden retriever command \$41 a month.

Despite these costs, pet insurance is still a small price to pay for the benefits you get in return. With such insurance policies in place, you can save hundreds or thousands of dollars on keeping your furry friend in good health.

What to Expect from Pet Insurance

Pet owners can choose two kinds of pet insurance: one is for accident and illness coverage, while the other one is an accident-only coverage. For the first option, the average is \$50 for dogs and \$28 for cats. For the accident-only coverage, dogs will cost about \$18, and cats will be around \$11.

What kind of coverage can you expect from pet insurance? There is usually a \$500 deductible for a \$5,000 annual max. There's also an 80% reimbursement level. Many pet owners don't know that pet insurance doesn't work like health insurance. You need to pay from your own pockets and then reimburse that amount from the insurance company. The benefit here is that you can go to any veterinarian. You are not limited to a network.

The Takeaway

Pet insurance is worth it. If you want to ensure your pets will live long and healthy lives, you should at least get them pet insurance. It isn't so expensive that it will break the bank, and it offers financial protection to the pet owner.