**Financial Pet Care and Pet Insurance**

A study published in 2022 by Synchrony estimated that life time expenses (food, veterinary care, end-of-life care, and other pet care costs) for a cat is **between $15,000- $45,000** and a dog is **$20,000-$55,000**. In the first year, puppy and kitten owners can spend between **$960-$2,800 (**<https://www.dvm360.com/view/synchrony-study-unveils-staggering-findings-surrounding-lifetime-cost-of-pet-ownership>.

There are multiple ways to be financially prepared for your pet’s expenses.

**Pet insurance** is one option. There are a variety of pet insurance plans available and each policy is different, which is why it is important to look at the cost and what is included in each policy. **Pawlicy Advisor** (<https://www.pawlicy.com/>) allows you to generate and compare quotes from different insurances, but does not show policies from **Trupanion,** which is a popular pet insurance company. Rates can vary based on a pet’s breed and age. Many policies require a check-up with a veterinarian within a timeframe to qualify.

It is important to read what each policy does and does not cover. Most pet insurance policies will NOT cover “preventative” care, which can include:

* Annual exams
* Vaccines
* Labwork such as a heartworm test and fecal
* Heartworm and flea/tick preventions
* Prescription foods
* Spays/neuters
* Dental cleanings
* Pre-existing conditions

Pet insurance can cover part of or all the costs for:

* Sick visits at your regular vet and emergency vet
* Dental extractions (not cleanings)
* Medications
* Non-spay/neuter surgeries, including mass removals, ACL repairs, etc.
* Physical Rehabilitation
* New, non-preexisting conditions

\*Plymouth Veterinary Clinic is not affiliated with any pet insurance companies and does not submit insurance claims. As per our policy, payment is due at the time of service. Clients are responsible for submitting claims with their insurance provider for reimbursement. Please ask a staff member if you are interested in looking at insurance plans available.

**Other options:**

If pet insurance is not right for your cat/dog, consider these alternatives:

* Create a **“rainy” day fund** where you set aside some money every week/month for those emergencies and end-of-life care expenses. It is never too early to start this because emergencies can happen at any time and end-of-life care expenses can start to add up!
* Consider applying for **CareCredit**. This is a credit card that offers payment plans interest free for 6 months (ask us for a brochure or visit <https://www.carecredit.com/> for details), but has high interest rates if not paid off within that time.
* Check out **ScratchPay** or **Basis**. Both of these offer a loan option without credit checks and offer 0% APR if completely paid off within the time period. View details at <https://www.scratchpay.com/> and <https://www.hellobasis.com/>.