

# Financial Options FOR VETERINARY CARE



Understanding your options can help plan for veterinary expenses. Use this chart to help you make the right financial decision for your pet and family.

FINANCIAL OPTION	>>> WHAT IS IT?	>>> PROS	>>> CONSIDERATIONS	>>> BEST FOR
 <b>WELLNESS PLANS</b>	<p>Monthly payments for routine preventative care, such as wellness exams and vaccines, that are often offered by veterinary clinics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spreads out routine care costs over time</li> <li>• May include discounts and other perks</li> <li>• Covers cost of basic preventative care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not usually customizable, so you may pay for services you don't need</li> <li>• What services are covered varies depending on the plan</li> <li>• Does not cover illness or emergency care</li> </ul>	<p>Pet parents who want predictable costs for regular basic preventative care.</p>
 <b>TELEHEALTH CARE</b>	<p>A service that provides virtual veterinary consultations and basic care, where permitted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly plans may be available and provide discounts or multiple pet options</li> <li>• Avoids travel to the vet and greater flexibility with scheduling appointments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services offered virtually vary by province, and may require a pre-existing relationship between your pet and veterinarian</li> <li>• Does not replace in-person care for conditions needing hands-on assessment</li> </ul>	<p>Pet parents seeking convenient guidance and basic support.</p>
 <b>PAYMENT PLANS</b>	<p>Pay over time financing option that may be available at some clinics. Credit checks may be required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used at the time that care is needed</li> <li>• Flexible terms</li> <li>• Low barriers (especially non-credit based versions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans may have high interest rates</li> <li>• Approval may be required, delaying or preventing access</li> <li>• Terms vary and additional fees may apply</li> <li>• Plans are not widely available and may be provided by clinics or a third party</li> </ul>	<p>Pet parents needing help to cover unexpected or large vet bills.</p>
 <b>PET INSURANCE</b>	<p>Pay monthly premiums to cover costs for illness or injury. Providers usually not affiliated with the veterinary clinic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection against high unexpected costs, which can reduce financial shock</li> <li>• A wide variety of plans available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-existing conditions are often excluded</li> <li>• Plans often have a deductible &amp; monthly premiums can be expensive</li> <li>• Payment often due at time of service, then reimbursed by plan</li> <li>• Basic plans don't include wellness care</li> </ul>	<p>Pet parents wanting coverage for emergencies or other health issues.</p>
 <b>PET MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT</b>	<p>A personal savings account for any pet care expense. Providers auto-bill payments, which ensures regular saving.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures flexible use of funds</li> <li>• Can be shared across pets</li> <li>• Contributions to the account from others is allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires discipline to put money aside each month</li> <li>• No insurance protection for large, unexpected costs</li> </ul>	<p>Pet parents who want control and flexibility in saving for pet care and how funds are used.</p>