

# PET INSURANCE



## Why consider pet insurance?

While pet owners must be prepared to take on the financial responsibility of maintaining a pet, unexpected illnesses or accidents can take a toll on your bank account. Emergency medical procedures and treatments for animals have become advanced, and can be expensive. The cost of delivering procedures and treatments such as X-rays, ultrasounds, CT scans and blood work for animals is comparable to human medicine. While these expenses are covered for humans, pets aren't so fortunate. Pet insurance provides a sense of security for pet owners by ensuring they will have help paying for an expensive veterinary bill in the event that their pet needs medical care.

## What kind of coverage do I need?

The type of coverage you will need depends on a number of factors:

Factor	Consider this
<b>Your budget</b>  Monthly payments, emergency funds	Are you financially prepared to pay for a veterinary bill that could cost thousands of dollars? If you don't think you'll be able to pay for expensive treatments, you may wish to purchase a more sophisticated policy to ensure that you won't have to pay a large lump sum if/when the time comes.
<b>Dog breed</b>  Medical predispositions of certain breeds Breed-specific insurance premiums	Some breeds are more susceptible to certain illnesses or conditions. So, before you purchase pet insurance, it's a good idea to ask the insurance company if these illnesses would be covered in the event that your pet acquires a condition that's predisposed to its breed. Some insurance providers may also charge larger premiums for breeds that are predisposed to specific illnesses.
<b>Pet's medical history and character</b>  Health problems Accident-prone Furniture or garbage chewer	Some pet insurance companies don't cover the cost of treating existing conditions or illnesses resulting from existing conditions. Others will put a limit to the number of claims you can submit for those pre-existing conditions. If you adopt a stray cat or dog, you may not know if the animal has a recurring illness/condition. You may want to consider a broader insurance policy just in case.
<b>Pet's age</b>  Current age of pet Life expectancy of the breed	Some insurance companies are willing to offer a lower premium rate based on the age of your pet, so it's often a good idea to purchase your policy while your pet is still a puppy/kitten. Also, a younger untrained, more rambunctious puppy may be more likely to be injured in an accident, whereas an older dog may be more likely to acquire some kind of illness.
<b>Where you live</b>  Apartment or house Indoor cat or outdoor cat Rural or urban area	If your cat goes outdoors, they are more susceptible to injury from other animals, and is more likely to pick up diseases and parasites. Similarly, if your dog lives on a farm and roams free outdoors, they are more likely to be injured by wild animals at some point in their life.



OVMA believes that purchasing pet insurance should be easy. That's why we created the OVMA Pet Health Insurance Program. The program offers great coverage at an affordable price, and it's the only pet insurance program designed and backed by Ontario's veterinarians. Features of the OVMA Pet Health Insurance Program include:

- A variety of coverage options to fit your needs and pocketbook.
- Completely transparent coverage with no hidden surprises.
- Coverage for alternative therapy, behavioural therapy, medical devices and routine dental cleanings.
- 24/7 coverage and claims support hotline.
- Fast claims turnaround.
- Customer loyalty discounts.
- The option to have the insurer pay the veterinary practice directly.

In addition, a portion of the proceeds from every policy goes to support the Farley Foundation, which helps low-income pet owners in Ontario by subsidizing the cost of veterinary care for their pets.

Visit [www.ovmapetinsurance.com](http://www.ovmapetinsurance.com) or call **1.844.744.6862**.

## What kind of insurance coverage is available?

While packages vary from company to company, there are three main insurance options for your pet. Deductibles and percentage of cost coverage can often be adjusted to modify the cost of the plan.

- **Accident** – Accident coverage will generally cover the cost of emergency veterinary care and treatment, up to a certain amount, for an unexpected accident such as being hit by a car.
- **Accident and illness** – This offers the same as accident coverage with the addition of illness insurance, which generally covers treatment for illnesses, hospitalization, surgery and more.
- **Preventive** – Some companies have introduced plans that allow pet owners to pay flat monthly fees to cover regular care such as vaccinations and annual exams.
- **Additional options** – Many companies offer add-on coverage that will cover additional costs, including rehabilitation, acupuncture, boarding fees, liability for third-party property damage, cremation or burial, and more.

## Will pet insurance cover regular veterinary examinations and vaccinations?

Some pet insurance plans provide wellness coverage. Check with your provider to ensure you know what your policy covers.

## Do pet insurance policies cover pets on vacation out of the province or the country?

Some insurance policies cover pets while out of province or out of the country. Check with your provider to ensure you know where and under what circumstances your pet is covered.

## What is co-insurance?

Co-insurance is your portion of the cost of claims. For example, if your policy has 20 per cent co-insurance, you would be responsible for 20 per cent of the cost of each claim.

## What is a deductible?

A deductible is a predetermined amount that you are responsible for paying before accessing insurance coverage. Deductibles can either be charged annually or per claim.

## What kinds of questions should I ask the insurance provider?

It's important to make an informed choice when purchasing pet health insurance. Make sure you understand how your insurance works and what's covered before you have to make a claim. Here are some questions to ask when purchasing pet insurance:

- What illnesses and injuries does this insurance cover?
- What's covered and what's not?
- What constitutes an accident?
- Are there any breed-specific exclusions? (i.e. it won't cover certain hereditary illnesses common to specific breeds)
- Is my pet still covered if we're travelling out of province or country?
- Will my premium increase if I make a claim? Do they change over time or as my pet ages?
- How do I make a claim? Do I have to pay the veterinary bill upfront?
- How long does it take to process a claim?
- Is there a waiting period before I can make my first claim?
- How does enrolling multiple pets impact my plan?

