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Cost Conscious Pets

Pets are an important part of the family. Here are a few money saving tips to minimize your pets impact on your pocketbook.

Measure Food

Purchase a good quality pet food and measure the amount fed. Higher quality pet foods are easier to digest, which means pets will eat less to get the same amount of nutrition as cheaper foods. Measuring out your pet's food will ensure that you are not spending excess money on food. To measure your pet's food, look at the back of the bag for the recommended cups based on your pet's weight. Food can be fed once a day or divided into smaller meals. Often pet treats can add expense and calories; instead use attention as a reward.

Buy in Bulk

Purchasing larger quantities of items such as pet food, heartworm, as well as flea and tick products can provide savings. Pet food is usually cheaper in larger bag sizes. Make sure to store your food in an air tight container or in the freezer if it will be stored for a longer period of time. Purchasing flea and tick products one dose at a time may save money in the short term, but is more costly in the long term. Often discounts, rebates or free doses are given for buying an entire box. Resist the urge to buy from on-line or unreliable sources. There are not very good regulations for on-line sales, and it is questionable if you will receive the true product. To ensure quality product, purchase products from a veterinarian.

Act Early.

If your pet is having a medical problem, bring the pet to be examined by a veterinarian early. Many times problems can be diagnosed and treated before they become serious. Costly trips to the emergency clinic can sometimes be avoided by having your pet seen by your regular veterinarian during regular business hours. Have emergency numbers on hand along with the poison control center's number. Often these resources can help you decide if a trip to the emergency clinic is warranted.

Routine Care.

Don't skimp on routine care such as heartworm prevention or lyme vaccination. Often the cost of treating the disease far outweighs the cost of prevention.

Financial Resources.

For a set monthly fee, pet insurance can help pay for medical expenses or even routine healthcare. There are many different companies available and often veterinary clinics have one that they recommend. Most veterinary clinics do not allow billing or payment plans; instead Care Credit may be available. Care Credit is a credit card for health care expenses that offers no interest financing for a period of time, depended on the amount put on the card.

Disclaimer: This written content is meant to be educational and is not medical advice. Always consult a veterinarian about medical advice for your pet.