What You Should Know About

PET INSURANCE

Our pets are like family, so we want to protect them like family. Pennsylvanians who are thinking about purchasing pet insurance should shop around for coverage and price that best meets their needs.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

With most plans you'll pay the vet and then file a claim to get reimbursed the costs covered by your pet insurance plan.

Pre-existing conditions are rarely covered so the time to buy a plan is before your pet gets sick or hurt.

TYPES OF COVERAGE

Accident Only

Treats injuries or illnesses caused by a mishap, like eating articles of clothing, sticks or other foreign objects.

Accident & Illness

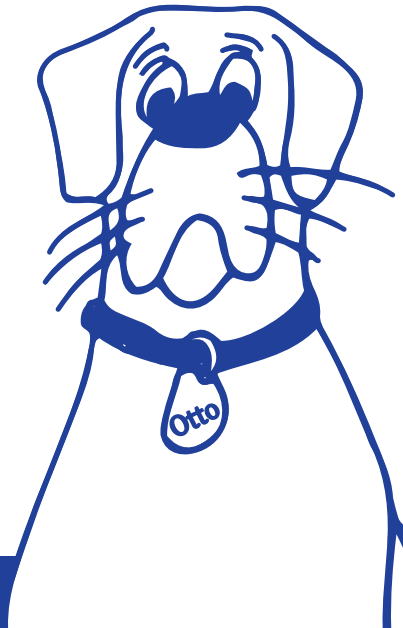
Also called "comprehensive," these plans also provide coverage for additional illnesses not related to a mishap.

Some insurers (and some non-insurers) also offer wellness-type coverage that cover routine "preventive care" such as exam fees, vaccinations etc.

COST

The cost of pet insurance will vary depending on factors such as pet breed, age, whether your pet is spayed or neutered, any prior claims history, the amount of coverage limits you choose and the deductible, co-pays and coinsurance you choose.

As your pet ages, the chance of claims increases dramatically, particularly for plans that cover illness. This means that your premium may change from year to year, sometimes considerably.



WHEN SHOPPING

If you are thinking about purchasing pet insurance, shop around to find the coverage and price that best meets your needs. No two policies are the same and price is just one consideration. Ask questions about the premium. Some policies only look at the age of your pet when you first buy the policy. Other policies may increase as your pet gets older.

Ask your vet about their experience with pet insurance, especially for pet insurance policies that pay the veterinarian directly. You may want to know if your vet accepts the pet insurance policy you are researching.

Consider the 3 C's

Compare All Out-of-Pocket Costs

Out-of-pockets costs often include deductibles, coinsurance and copays.

The deductible is the amount you will be responsible to pay up front before the insurance company will pay. The higher the deducible (for example $100, $250, $500) the lower the premium.

Copays and coinsurance work in the same way and are the portion of the cost for services you will share with the insurance company. The copay is a set dollar amount. The higher your copay, the lower your premium. Coinsurance is a percentage of the total coverable cost. The higher percentage the insurance company will cover, the higher your premium will be.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

The Pennsylvania Insurance Department approves and regulates pet insurance policies, rates and rules in the commonwealth.

If your pet insurance policy has been canceled or non-renewed, the Pennsylvania Insurance Department can help. You have the right to appeal the termination.

Whether you have a general question or want to file a complaint, you can get help at Consumer Services online at www.insurance.pa.gov or contact us at 1-877-881-6388.