

# Help Your PET, Get to the VET



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Bayer HealthCare  
Animal Health

## How to Budget for Dogs and Cats without Scaling Back on What's Important

Pet owners across the country are facing difficult choices and concerns about how to pay for and prioritize their pets' care and wellness. Many are cutting back on veterinary visits and preventive pet care due to financial struggles and concerns – and that's of great concern for your pet's current and future health.

As part of the **Help Your Pet, Get to the Vet** Campaign by Advantage® Topical Solution from Bayer Animal Health, below are some money-saving pet care tips and advice.

- Know your pet's real age:** Cats and dogs age much faster we do, so knowing their age in human years can help you understand some of the possible health issues and complications. For instance, a six-year-old Great Dane is already 49 in human years, so its dietary needs and activity levels should reflect this. Because pets age so quickly, it also means their health issues and concerns change quickly.
- Prevention is the best medicine:** Nearly all veterinarians agree that preventive pet care is the best way to keep pets healthy. Keep up with proactive preventive care on the essentials like parasite control, dental care and vaccinations. Scaling back on a monthly flea and tick treatment and prevention could easily become a major financial burden of hundreds and possibly thousands of dollars, as well as discomfort or even a serious health condition for your pet.
- Don't skip exams:** Pet owners and veterinarians make great team players – keep routine veterinary visits scheduled on your calendar so that you have the opportunity to share any concerns with your veterinarian, ask questions and flag any potential health issues early on. One year of missed veterinary visits is a missed opportunity to identify potential symptoms early on and complications as your pet ages. And, veterinarians can often identify symptoms of larger problems before they become full-blown health issues.
- Watch the scales:** Extra pounds can be the sign of bigger health problems in pets. Pet obesity is on the rise, so be sure to always feed your pet the correct amount of food and track your pet's weight regularly at home. Two easy ways to monitor your pet's weight include: check that your pet's ribs are not visually noticeable but are easily felt and check your pet for a trim abdomen.
- Enjoy healthy freebies:** Exercise benefits cats, dogs AND owners too! Physical activities give your pet much-needed stimulation and also help curb pets' packing on the extra pounds. Set aside playtime every day whether you have an outdoor or indoor pet and rotate activities to keep things fresh.
- Get a daily dose of quality time:** That "special bonding time" with your cat or dog provides the love and nurturing that your pet needs, and it benefits their emotional well-being. And according to research studies, the benefits of pet ownership and quality bonding are mutually beneficial – showing signs of affection reduces stress and has a multitude of positive effects on people as well as pets.
- Do-it-yourself pet care:** Take on some of the basic pet grooming at home or space out the amount of time between professional grooming. Check the library for grooming guides and look for breed-specific tips on the Internet.
- Become a savvy shopper:** Buy food or kitty litter in bulk and skip the urge to dress your pet in designer duds and fancy accessories. Also, for some of your larger items, such as crates, cat posts, houses and more, check out places like Craigslist where you can get great prices for gently used necessities, or where you can post a free ad for what you need.

Dog's Age	Human Age (In years)			
	up to 20 pounds	21-50 pounds	51-90 pounds	over 90 pounds
6	40	42	45	49
8	48	51	55	64
10	56	60	66	78
12	64	69	77	93
14	72	78	88	108
16	80	87	99	123
18	88	96	109	
20	96	105	120	

Cat's Age	Human Age (In years)
6mths	15
1 yr	24
2	28
3	32
4	36
5	40
6	44
7	48
8	52
9	56
10	60
11	64
12	68
13	72
14	76
15	80
16	84
17	88
18	92
19	96
20	100

Source: American Veterinary Medical Association