

# Pet Insurance demystified

What you need to know before you part with your money.



[www.insuremypet.co.uk](http://www.insuremypet.co.uk) is a trading name of CETA Insurance Limited  
authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority FRN 307824

CETA House, Cromwell Business Park, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire  
Telephone 01608 6450990

## Why do you need insurance?

**P**et insurance is quite possibly one of the best value insurance policies you can buy. Even if you only have a couple of ordinary domestic pets, vet bills can get very expensive very quickly, particularly if overnight stays or operations are required.

Sometimes it only takes one veterinary visit to make pet owners realise that their small monthly payment is worth its weight in gold.

But it's not all about vet fees. Read on to find out how pet insurance can provide cover for you too. For example a

*Almost 50% of UK pets will require treatment at some point in a year at an average cost of £220 (Source: RSPCA)*

problem with your pet could mean cancelling a holiday, or you might need to pay emergency boarding fees if you are ill. Some policies will cover situations like these as well as veterinary bills.

## Get the right cover

**I**t is essential to make sure that the cover is right for the pets you have and how you live. For example, it would be no good having a dog that loved competing in agility competitions, and you thinking your dog was fully protected, only to find out too late that this exempted your dog from being covered.

However tedious it sounds, this means reading the small print, preferably before you take out the cover.



## Top 10 Tips

- 1** For dog owners it's important to have adequate third party liability as standard. This covers you if your dog damages someone else's property or injures someone.
- 2** Note that many household pet insurance policies will only offer third party liability for dogs. If you have a different type of pet that needs liability insurance you may have to look for exotic pet cover.
- 3** Check the time limits – there may be a time limit of. Say, 12 months cover for long term conditions such as arthritis. When this time limit expires you may be liable for the further treatment costs.
- 4** Age limits – some policies don't provide cover for older pets, which is when you are most likely to claim! Check that the policy will cover your pet for the whole of its lifetime.
- 5** Flexibility – are you likely to take your pet on holiday with you? If so then the look for a policy that has an option of adding overseas travel to your cover.
- 6** Theft or straying – it's not all about vet bills. If you have a rare breed that's vulnerable to theft look for a policy that covers it. Make sure the financial limit is high enough to cover the cost of a replacement.
- 7** Holiday cancellation – if your pet is old or prone to illness it might be worth looking for a policy that will compensate you (under certain conditions) if you have to cancel a holiday because your pet needs medical attention.
- 8** Emergency boarding fees – some policies will pay for fees incurred if you are ill and have to have your pet looked after at short notice.
- 9** Excess - The excess is the part of the claim you must pay. These vary enormously from one policy to another. For veterinary fees an excess is usually applicable once per condition. It may be a flat fee or a percentage of the claim amount.
- 10** Read the small print – yes, really. Or ask your insurance provider to explain the main conditions and exclusions before you buy.

# Spot the difference

## Policy types explained

### Time and condition limited cover

This is by far the most common type of policy available in the UK. You will normally be offered a set level of vets fees such as £3,000, £4,000 or £7000 per condition. In the event of an injury or illness you will then be able to make a claim up to that limit.

In addition there will usually be a time restriction on how long you can continue to claim, usually 12-18 months. So if your pet has a long-term illness such as arthritis or diabetes, payments will stop when the time limit is reached, even if you have not reached the full financial limit.

In addition, once you have made a claim for a particular condition you will not be able to claim for the same condition, once the maximum financial limit has been reached. In effect cover for that condition will cease even when you renew your policy.

When time or financial limits run out you will be left to pick up the tab for any on-going treatments. These limits also explain why this type of policy is very cost-effective and therefore very popular.

### Condition limited

Some policies that are available do not have a limit on how long you can claim for a particular condition. In this case the policy will normally

offer a set level of vets fees cover such as £3,000, £4,000 or £7000 per condition. But in the event of an injury or illness they will then pay out for as long as it takes to reach the limit of cover. In the event of a long-term illness this could be over the course of many years.

Once the limit has been reached, however, then cover for that condition will cease, even if you renew the policy. You will then need to pay any further bills.

Because there is no time limit for claiming, these policies tend to be more expensive than the time-limited variety.

### Covered for life

At the top of the range in Pet insurance is the Covered for Life policy, often referred to as a Lifetime policy (although this term is sometimes misused).

A covered for life policy will again have a cover limit such as £3,000, £4,000 or £7000 or even more per condition, however there will be no time limit or condition limit on the policy.

This means that in the event of a long-term illness, you will be able to claim up to the cover limit every year for the life of your pet. Each year you will essentially have a new pot of money to draw upon.



A per condition policy is particularly attractive where a breed is prone to a long term illness or condition and would therefore need treating by a vet over a long period of time.

As you would expect, as this type of policy offers the highest and most flexible level of cover, it is usually the most expensive. In addition, very few providers offer this type of Insurance (see table).

## Accident & Injury only pet insurance

At the other end of the spectrum is the budget option, offering cover only for accident and injury. Illnesses are not covered and therefore price of the policy is much lower.

Once again there will be an overall cover limit such as £1,000 £2,000 or £3,000 per injury and there will be a time limit for claiming, usually 12 months.

*Typical vets fees:-  
Road accident £500,  
Overnight stay £350*

**Notes**

**Common Cat illnesses**  
Hairballs, Worms,  
Immunodeficiency Virus  
Leukemia Virus, Lyme Disease,  
Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

**Common Dog illnesses**  
Lungworm, Canine Distemper,  
Kennel Cough, Parvovirus,  
Leptospirosis, Coronavirus

	Product	Accident & Injury only	Condition & Time limited	Condition Limited	Covered for life
Tesco Bank	Accident & Injury Pet Insurance	✓			
Tesco Bank	Standard cover		✓		
Tesco Bank	Extra cover			✓	
Sainsbury's Finance	Option 1		✓		
Sainsbury's Finance	Option 2			✓	
Pet plan	Essential		✓		
Pet plan	Classic				✓
Pet plan	Ultimate				✓
InsureMyPet	My Pet Essential	✓			
InsureMyPet	My Pet Bronze		✓		
InsureMyPet	My Pet Silver		✓		
InsureMyPet	My Pet Gold			✓	
InsureMyPet	My Pet Platinum				✓
InsureMyPet	My Pet Drewe		✓		

**E&OE Correct at time of going to press**  
Terms, conditions and excesses apply and these may change at renewal.