

FINDING HELP WITH EMERGENCY VET CARE EXPENSES

- **AAHA Helping Pets Funds : 866-4HELPETS**
The AAHA Helping Pets Fund provides financial assistance when people cannot afford veterinary care for their pets. They can possibly help if the situation is one of the following:
 - *Pet owners are on government assistance for low-income individuals
 - *Pet owners are experiencing a financial crisis
 - *Good Samaritans find an animal in need who needs care, but the pet owner cannot be found
 - **Angels4Animals: 916-941-9119**
Participants are selected after filling out an eligibility assessment application. Precedence is give to those who have the shortest amount of time to make a decision.
 - **Feline Veterinary Assistance Program: (888) 301-4264**
To be eligible, the pet owner needs to be receiving Medicare, Medicaid, Disability, Welfare or Unemployment.
 - **Help-A-Pet: 630-986-9504**
Applicants must provide proof of income eligibility.
- * It is also a possibility that your veterinarian may allow you to set up a payment plan if you have a good relationships with them.**



PREVENTATIVE CARE

In addition to bringing your pet to the vet for a yearly exam to catch problems early, there are some other preventative tips to save money down the line.

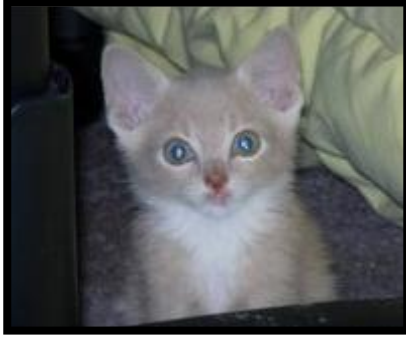
- Do not use store brand or discount flea and tick preventatives. Many of them do not work well and your pet may get any number of flea and tick borne diseases. Ask your vet what the most effective treatment is.
- Examine your pet at home yourself. Check under your pet's fur for lumps, bumps or scabs.
- Check the pet's ears and eyes and monitor eating and drinking habits. (Changes in eating or drinking can be indicative of medical issues.)
- Learning how to clean your pet's ears yourself, especially if it is prone to ear infections, can be a money saver as can brushing your pet's teeth to cut down on the need for dental cleaning.

VET CARE BASICS



3300 Falls Rd
Baltimore, MD 21211
410-235-8826
www.mdspca.org

VET CARE ON A BUDGET



The number one way to save money on vet care is....take your pet to the vet! An annual exam can catch health crises early on and can save you money down the road. Picking a vet is an important process because you will have a long term relationship with her.

Before you pick a vet, here are some tips:

- Ask your friends and family who they see for their vet care and why they like that vet.
- Call the vets before making an appointment. Ask what each vet charges for a basic exam, what is included in the exam and what they charge for vaccinations.
- Find out the vet's office hours; do they work with your schedule?

WHAT ARE THE BASICS?

Once you have picked a vet and made an appointment, make sure you know what you would like to get from your visit.

What vaccines should your pet get? Not all pets need all vaccinations. For example, indoor cats may not need the same vaccinations as outdoor cats.

- Having your pet up to date on the **Rabies Vaccination** is required by law. For both cats and dogs, the initial rabies vaccination is for one year; thereafter, a 3 year rabies can be given.
- **Cats:** In addition to Rabies, cats should get the **FVRCP** combination vaccination. It immunizes the cat against Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia. These diseases are very severe and quite expensive to treat, if not fatal. Even indoor cats can get these viruses. If you have an outdoor cat, consult with your vet about what additional he shots they may need.
- **Dogs:** In addition to Rabies, dogs should get **DHLPP**, which is a combination vaccination that inoculations against Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptosporosis, Parainfluenza and Parvo Virus. If your dog spends a lot of time outdoors in tall grass or in the woods you should consider a vaccination against Lyme disease.

What tests are necessary to give your pet? For example, does your cat need a test for FIV/FelV? Does your dog need a heartworm test?

- **Cats:** All cats should be tested for Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).
- If your pet has runny, bloody or oddly colored stool, a fecal test should be run to look for parasites and for Panleukopenia in cats and Parvo in dogs.

For more information on vaccinations, please visit our website at: www.mdspca.org.

OTHER MONEY SAVING TIPS

- One way to be able to afford health expenses for your pet is to sign up for Pet Insurance. The cost of a policy may vary, so do your research, but it can help out with your vet bill and may be the difference between you being able to afford a procedure your pet needs, or not.
- Your local Petco and other organizations may offer shot clinics, where your pet can get vaccinated for a lower cost.
- Grooming your pet at home will save you the price of a visit to the groomer, so invest in a brush and some nail clippers.
- Feed a consistent diet- switching an animal's food abruptly can cause diarrhea and vomiting.
- It can be very tempting to buy things for your pet. When you get down to it, however, your pet doesn't need fancy accessories; a nylon collar and leash will last for years. The money you spend on non-essential extras is money you could save for future vet care.

