

Always Helpful Veterinary Services

Education for both ends of the lead!

How Integrative Preventive Pet Care Can Save You Money

We all want to save money where we can. For some, keeping costs down is not a choice. Many pet owners are foregoing pet healthcare because they just can't afford hundreds of dollars in vet bills.

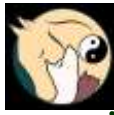
All of your pets need regular veterinary care to ensure optimal health and quality of life. Our wellness plans feature budget-friendly monthly payments — making it easy to manage your pet's healthcare costs.

You can also avoid many unnecessary tests and procedures by keeping your pet as healthy as possible throughout the year. Not only is this money saving, it is great for your pet's physical and mental health and longevity.

Integrative care starts at home!

Here are some suggestions for holistic care:

- **Invest in Quality Food**—Feeding a balanced raw or home cooked diet or choosing a high-quality grain-free pet food is your best insurance for long term pet health. The right food can help you eliminate allergies, intestinal problems, obesity, diabetes, and other food-related issues. Although you will spend more at the check-out line, the investment should save you much more in the long term, and save your pet much suffering.
- **Avoid pet obesity**—Obese pets can suffer from many costly conditions, such as arthritis, high blood pressure, and diabetes just to name a few. Feeding your pets' correct portions and using healthy treats in moderation will control unwanted weight gain and keep your pets out of the vet's office.
- **Avoid dangerous treats**—Many treats can become lodged in the esophagus, stomach, intestines, or trachea (windpipe) of pets. Avoid things like very small rawhide chews, small pig's feet or other products that may be flavored or sourced from questionable ingredients. Avoid deer antlers or other chews that are too hard, dissolve poorly and can break teeth.
- **Maintain healthy teeth and gums**—Many pets suffer from dental problems, and should have used dental spray or brushed their teeth daily to avoid costly veterinary procedures. Apply pet toothpaste to either a soft pet toothbrush or on gauze wrapped around your finger to clean choppers easily, some will even let you use an electric tooth brush! Tooth and gum disease can result in infection, pain, loss of teeth, and even organ damage—in pets, as well as in people. A quick brush or raw meaty bones can keep the vet away!



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- **Routine eye care**—Keeping your pet's eyes clean and comfortable will contribute to his health and wellbeing by preventing irritation and infection that can be painful and possibly lead to loss of vision. Careful inspection and cleaning using eye friendly products like artificial tears, will keep your pet's eyes clear and comfortable. Consult with Dr. Shoemaker if you have any questions about eyes. They are precious!
- **Routine ear care**—Keeping your pet's ears clean will help prevent painful irritation and infection that can lead to hearing loss. Clean your pet's ears once weekly or as needed with a pet product like Oxyfresh Pet ear cleaner to keep your pets from suffering with costly ear infections. <http://www.oxyfresh.com>
- **Proper flea control**—Fleas can be an expensive problem year round. Not only do they cause itching and sometimes troublesome hot spots, they can also infest your pet with intestinal tapeworms. There are many topical products available to control fleas. If you are looking for a natural approach, try an herbal spray with citronella or other oils that will aid in natural flea control. Cats, some dogs, and especially birds may be sensitive to some essential oils.
- **Bathe and groom your pets regularly**—There are many instructional books and videos that can help minimize this expense with proper pet grooming at home. Don't forget to wash your pet's feet every time she goes outside during winter months when your walks and roads are treated or if allergies are a problem. This can help your dog to avoid ingestion of chemicals that may be problematic.
- **Pet-proof your home and yard**—Every year thousands of dollars are spent on treating pets for accidents and poisonings. Pet-proof your home so your pet has no possible access to rat bait, snail bait, ant bait, prescription medication, cleaning supplies (natural cleaning products are recommended) or even the kitchen cupboards. Pets are amazing...they can smell chocolate through a cupboard door! Insure your yard is safe—that boards are not loose in the fence, the gate latches securely, the trash and recycling bins are sealed tightly and there are no hazards in the yard. Don't use chemical pesticides in and around your home and yard, which can cause allergies, thyroid problems and cancer.
- **Exercise!** Pets get the same health benefits that people do from exercise, especially swimming. Try it together...it will be healthy and fun for both of you!
- **Please consult with Dr. Shoemaker or Dr. Urban** about specific products, and holistic care recommendations for your pets.

Keep all your pets healthy for less with interest free monthly payment plans

Resource: PetMD, Judith M. Shoemaker, DVM