

PET INSURANCE

Pet insurance is becoming more and more recognised as a must-have if you are a pet owner. The three most commonly discussed pet insurance companies offering pet insurance are PetPlan, PetnSure and Ellenco. We recommend a combined medical and surgical plan to cover all eventualities. There are usually different tiers of pet insurance and each will have different amounts of cover, inclusions and exclusions. As with all insurance it is important to read the fine print and ensure that the plan you choose is right for you.

Some pet insurance tips:

Remember, insurance companies will not cover pre-existing conditions mentioned in your pet's notes and they often won't start insurance for a pet over 8-10 years of age.

When looking into pet insurance, there are a few important questions you should think about first.

- Do you want the insurance company to contribute to routine vaccinations?
- Do you want your insurance company to help pay for consultations for tummy upsets and ear infections (i.e. medical cover)?
- Do you only want to use it for the big bills – like if your pet is hit by a car?
- Will the insurance company cover older pets?
- Will it cost any more as your pet ages?
- Will they start insurance cover for a pet over 8 years of age?

Your premiums and excess payments will differ depending on how you answer these questions.

Then you need to check the following information in the policy you are interested in:

- Do they cover breed related conditions?
- What is the premium and excess per condition?
- For each condition diagnosed – is there a limit per condition **or** per year? And, will this value reset to zero next year?

For example; Diabetes is a condition that requires life-long treatment. If the policy limit says \$5000. Does it mean \$5000 for the life of the pet for this condition, \$5000 to spend in the first 12 months since diagnosis of this condition, or \$5000 per year for this condition with it resetting to zero every year?

We recommend discussing your expectations and questions with an insurance representative prior to starting an insurance policy.

