



Dr. Mulder is the owner and medical director of the Pet Hospital, located at 403 Fairview Drive in Brantford. While treating the 'whole' patient, his experience in emergency medicine, nutrition and 13 years as a general practitioner, allows him to lead the team as they serve the client, helping to meet all their pets' needs. This advice column is provided to help loving pet owners to make decisions in the care of their pet. If you have a question for Dr. Mulder, please send an email to drmulder@fairviewpet.ca or call the Pet Hospital at 519-753-7257.

*Health Care
Isn't Just For Humans!*

DR. MULDER TALKS PET CARE THE COST OF PET CARE

Q: Dear Dr. Mulder: How can we afford it if our new puppy gets sick?

Dr. Mulder: The best way to prepare for healthcare costs is prevention. Preventive medicine really works! Well trained dogs usually don't get hit by cars; thin dogs usually have less arthritis; vaccines really do prevent diseases; blood, urine and fecal screening tests provide early warnings that help to diagnose

problems before any visible signs of illness. Quality pet food and supplements can also prevent diseases. Be sure to budget for the cost of prevention. Kittens and puppies need a series of vaccinations and should be spayed or neutered at a young age - this investment can pay huge dividends in long term health. The cost is small compared to treating your pet for a disease. Even if all prevention fails, your pet will be in the best possible health to fight off the unforeseen.

For the unforeseen, I recommend that you get health insurance for your pet. Diagnostic tests and emergency treatments are comparable to what is available for human healthcare and they can be expensive! You can get coverage for emergencies only or a plan that even covers preventive procedures like vaccines and teeth cleaning. The cost of such protection is reasonable considering it avoids having to make medical decisions because of cost factors. From add-ons to home insurance, automobile clubs and banks to dedicated pet insurance companies such as Trupanion, there are a number of options. For a list of questions to ask your insurance provider, see our website www.fairviewpet.ca.

Alternatively, consider a savings account for your pet. If you make monthly deposits (comparable to insurance premiums) the amount can grow throughout the life of the pet. As long as you resist the temptation to dip into it, this emergency fund will be there in your pet's time of need. If disaster strikes before your safety net is in place, there are financial companies (Petcard.ca) who offer payment plans. As long as you have a good credit rating or a cosigner you should be able to get the funds you need, even in an emergency.

A veterinarian that you trust is the best advisor to help you with the many healthcare decisions for your new pet. At Fairview Drive Pet Hospital, we all look forward to helping new puppy and kitten owners as they begin life with their new arrival! Next time we will look more at how you can start their lives out right with excellent nutrition.

Fairview Drive Pet Hospital

403 Fairview Drive, Brantford, ON N3R 6T2

519-753-7257

www.fairviewpet.ca email: info@fairviewpet.ca

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