

# Making veterinary care more affordable

Guelph, ON

Money is often an uncomfortable topic, and when it comes to our pets, the thought of a “large vet bill” can be an additional stress.

We love our pets, and want to give them a life full of love and happiness, but there are often emergencies, illnesses or even preventative treatments along the way that have costs associated with them.

There is a whole industry of pet health insurance available to pet owners – plans that you buy into to help cover a certain percentage of veterinary bills from unexpected injuries and illnesses. However, there is now another option becoming more common in veterinary practices: payment plans.



When investing in your pet's health be sure to talk to your veterinary healthcare team to see what financing options and insurance programs are available

Even before the COVID-19 Pandemic, just over half of Canadian families were living paycheck to paycheck. For most Canadians, then, it makes sense that it would be easier to pay \$100 a month for 12 months rather than to shell out \$1,000 at once. That is the idea behind payment plans at veterinary clinics. Payment plans allow pet owners to move forward with dental cleanings, diagnostic testing, or other necessary procedures, without having to worry about the cost up front.

At VCA Canada clinics, for example, they offer monthly financing through a company called PayBright. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) has partnered with Petcard, another financial program. In both cases, the process is quite similar: you get pre-approved for a certain amount of financing, and you select the length of time you want to spread the payments out over (i.e. 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, etc.).

According to a July 2020 article from the Better Business Bureau, these buy-now-pay-later services are new and quickly gaining in popularity. But it's important that you always look at the fine print and make sure that the payment plan is right for YOU.

Here are some important details to look into before moving forward with a payment plan:

1. Is there any interest? If so, how much?
2. How many monthly installments are there?
3. Are there any other administration fees?
4. What happens if you miss a payment? What is the penalty?
5. Can you pay off the full amount sooner without penalty?

When investing in your pet's health, and making tough decisions about whether or not to move forward with certain procedures, be sure to talk to your veterinary healthcare team to see what financing options and insurance programs are available at your clinic. Many practices have options in place to help make veterinary care more affordable for you.

[For more information:](#)

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