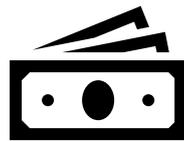


Wylie Wellness Chronicles – Insurance



To insure or not to insure? That is the question!

Let's look sensibly at the considerations...



1. Lifetime costs of pet ownership

PDSA study (2018)

- Small dog breeds: **£6,500 to £12,000**
- Medium dog breeds: **£8,500 to £13,000**
- Large dog breeds: **£7,400 to £17,000**

The Money Advice Service (2018)

- Average **£21,000**
- Large pedigree breeds in the region of **£33,000**



2. Vet Bills

Average vet bills and medical costs for your dog:

Surgery for broken limbs **£1,500** for the surgery alone before peripheral costs such as blood tests, hospitalisation, post-operative care

Cruciate repair surgery (TPLO) **£5,000**

Chemotherapy **£5,000**

Long-term illnesses like diabetes, Cushing's disease or allergies can amount to many thousands of pounds over the lifetime of your pet

A bout of bloody diarrhoea requiring hospitalisation of your dog for 3-4 days could easily cost **£1000-£2000**



3. Insurance

a. Types of insurance:

Lifetime cover which is annually reset:

- Maximum limit per condition, unlimited annual total OR
- Unlimited per condition but within annual total limit
 - Most costly but most comprehensive
 - Premiums increase with age and claims made (generally)

Non-lifetime cover:

- Cover per condition OR
- Cover for a set period (usually 12 months)
 - Once the limit per condition or period is reached, these conditions are excluded from further insurance

- Cheaper in the short term but premiums increase dramatically when your pet gets to six or seven
- By the time they reach eight or nine you will not be able to get insurance at all – at a time when your pet is likely to need it most.

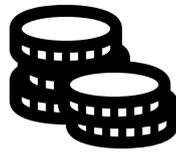
Accident cover:

- Cover for cost of accident or injury only
 - Least costly and least comprehensive

Lastly...

Most insurers won't cover pre-existing conditions (some do on a case-by-case basis)

Some insurers are starting to cap payments for certain procedures and hospitalisation stays



b. Cost of insurance

- Cost varies greatly according to age, breed, gender and type of insurance
- **Which?** found the average cost of a lifetime policy for a dog is **£472** a year
- Pet Plan 'Ultimate' lifetime cover for a three-year-old male, neutered Bulldog is **£377.34** per month or **£4528.08** a year



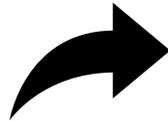
Warning

Insurance companies are getting evermore creative in how they analyse claims

We are currently dealing with a claim on a client's behalf, in which her pet required a Holter ECG monitor

We ordered the equipment in, fitted it to our patient and recorded 48 hours of ECG information before sending the equipment back for specialist evaluation

The insurance company in question is refusing to pay the hire charges for the equipment



c. Alternatives

Some of our clients follow the advice of **The Money Advice Service** and build up their own private fund over time to allow them to take care of expected and unexpected vet bills

There are **charitable organisations** that can provide discounted treatment

- Blue Cross Animal Hospital (<https://www.bluecross.org.uk>)
- Celia Hammond (<https://www.celiahammond.org>)
- PDSA (<https://www.pdsa.org.uk>)



To insure or not to insure?

At Wylies we **support pet insurance** because we know that accidents and illnesses happen and sometimes the costs can be prohibitive

These are stressful situations anyway without having to worry about cost of diagnosis and treatment

It is heart-breaking for pet owners to be forced to choose second or third best options for their pets because they simply can't afford the best