

## Resession Proof Your Pet

We know that times are tough right now. We've come up with 7 ways to help save some money when it comes to the care of your pet.

1. Go to the Vet!

Prevention and early detection is the number 1 way to save money. Yearly exams can catch health issues early on which can save you a lot of time and a lot of money!

2. Flea and parasite prevention

Contrary to popular belief, fleas are not just a problem during the summer. Many cats and dogs are actually allergic to fleas which can cause hot spots and irritation. Keeping flea control year round can prevent it!

3. Look into training

Well trained animals are typically easier to walk, calmer and less likely to get into things that they shouldn't.

4. Keep them trim

Keeping your pet at a healthy weight is one of the easiest ways to help save on your pets medical bills. Excess weight can strain and damage joints, bones and ligaments. Obesity can also cause diabetes, heart disease, increase cancer risk, and heat intolerance.

5. Spay and Neuter

It cost considerably less to license an altered pet than an unaltered one. In 2009 in King County it cost \$30 to license a neutered male dog whereas for an intact male dog it cost \$90

*Also see 5 reasons to spay and neuter above.*

6. Insurance

Many plans are affordable and can help shoulder the costs of treatment and emergency care. *See Pet Insurance: Decoding the fine print on page 2.*

7. Give your pet a check up

Every week check your pet for lumps, bumps flakes or scabs. Check ears and eyes for irritation or discharge. Brush your pet's teeth daily. Make note of any changes in activity level, eating, drinking, urinating or defecating. If it seems out of the ordinary, call your vet sooner rather than later.