

For immediate release

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Contact: Mary Leake Schilder, 206-419-6646 or marys@paws.org

Tips for Saving Money on Pet Care

The Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in Lynnwood offers money-saving tips on pet care. PAWS encourages people to do what they can to keep their pets for two main reasons. First, animals depend on their people for a lifetime commitment of their care. Shelters are already crowded with homeless animals even when times are good. Secondly, studies have shown that pets provide people with emotional and physical health benefits, especially important to have during tough times.

Veterinary Care

- Call and compare fees of local veterinarians. However, do not choose a vet solely on the lowest prices. Be sure you can trust your veterinarian with your pet's life. Ask friends and family, or people at the dog park for recommendations.
- Hold a yard sale, bake sale or other event to raise funds for medical procedures.
- Search the Internet for grants to help with veterinary bills, as well as for low-cost clinics.
- Get the recommended treatments and vaccinations for your pet to keep your animal healthy.
- When your pets get sick, take care of them right away to help prevent future, costlier treatments.

Food

- Do not overfeed your pets. Overweight pets may have more health problems that increase veterinary costs, plus it's a waste of food.
- Search the Internet for discounts on food and other items. Contact the company who makes the food you buy and ask for coupons.
- Make homemade pet treats, but be sure to use recipes that are safe for your pet by getting a pet treat cookbook at the library or used bookstore, or ask your veterinarian for a recommendation.
- Invest in quality food for your pets now so you can prevent future health issues.

Entertainment

- Make toys yourself. Tie knots in an old sock or rope, provide a paper bag or box with a peak hole for your cat, or secure a remnant piece of carpet to a scrap piece of wood for a scratching post. Both dogs and cats would enjoy an empty water bottle filled with dried macaroni with the lid on tight. Be sure to monitor your pet's use of all toys.
- Shop for pet toys and equipment at garage sales or second-hand stores.
- The best entertainment is you. Spend more one-on-one time with your pets with walks and play time. It's good for you and them, and it's free.

If You are Getting a New Pet

- Select a pet who matches your budget, considering the size, age, health care and type of pet.
- Adopt a pet from your local animal shelter or rescue group rather than purchasing from a pet store or breeder. You can find dogs, cats, and smaller animals, such as guinea pigs. The fees are usually much lower, the animals are often spayed and neutered (an expense you won't have), and you are giving a homeless animal a second chance.