

Pets

Throw Yourself a Bone

Save on pet costs—Fido doesn't need to know.

BY KAREN ASP

You're not alone: 71% of owners want their pets not to cost them so much.

I GET A LOLLIPOP, RIGHT?

Pets



As a doting fur parent, I know pets aren't cheap. With vet visits, medication costs, and food purchases—not to mention treats and toys—I spend over \$5,000 a year on my “kids” alone, a cost that seems to rise each year.

More than half of my fellow pet owners agree, saying they're shelling out more than they have in previous years. Pets don't have to cost a fortune, though—here are four tips from experts to keep your wallet (and your pet's kibble dish) full.

1 CHOOSE A LOW-MAINTENANCE BREED.

If you have an active lifestyle, you wouldn't get an English bulldog,

ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA KUSLMA

Easily SAVE

18 to 60 hours a year!TM
Why Struggle
 with OBSOLETE Flat-bottomed scoops?

Litter-Lifter

CLOG-FREE™ scoops with peaked-shaped™ blades

Best Cat Litter Scoop Ever!TM
 Only scoop I'll ever use!

At your

petco

Chucks Don's
 We make life better!

Litter-Lifter.com

Facebook icon

Twitter icon

LinkedIn icon

Google+ icon

YouTube icon

Instagram icon

Pinterest icon

SoundCloud icon

Dribbble icon

DeviantArt icon

Behance icon

500px icon

Academia.edu icon

ResearchGate icon

Scopus icon

Publons icon

ORCID icon

PubPeer icon

Open Access icon

Research Square icon

bioRxiv icon

medRxiv icon

Preprint icon

bioRxiv icon

medRxiv icon

Preprint icon

THE SECRET

The Raking-Action™ Triangular-Blades™ make the clean litter fall right back into the box! Pick up only the waste without creating fragments! Eliminates sifting, shaking & unnecessary dust!

Arthritis-Friendly™

& all fine retailers

PETPROS

MudBay

petco

Chucks Don's

petco

Chucks Don's

petco

Chucks Don's

petco

Chucks Don's

petco

Chucks Don's

petco

Chucks Don's

petco

Chucks Don's

right? (Right.) The next time you pick a new pet, it's OK to consider budget, too. “Some breeds have more health issues and could be costly,” says Jennifer Welser, chief medical officer with BluePearl Veterinary Partners. For example, Labs are prone to orthopedic issues; bulldogs are susceptible to allergies.

2 SCHEDULE CHECKUPS EARLY AND OFTEN.

It sounds counterintuitive, but routine exams can prevent spending more in the future. Vets can spot small changes, like hidden lumps or bumps, early on so they don't turn into something more serious, says Welser. Regular exams can also help you bond with the vet and work with her to create a budget-friendly, customized health plan.

3 START A RAINY DAY FUND. Unexpected illnesses and injuries can happen anytime, so set aside some money each month. Another form of forced savings is pet insurance, says Andrea Woroch, consumer savings expert. As with health insurance, you pay a monthly premium to cover certain costly procedures should a pet require them.

4 SPOT THE SAVINGS.

Sites like Groupon and LivingSocial offer deals on pet sitters, walkers, and boarding facilities. Rover.com lists pet lovers who can take in and watch your pets—complete with reviews and price comparisons. You can also save major money through store reward programs and websites like 1800PetMeds.com. [19](#)

what's got
Prevention's

Oatln



off you go

1. Focus On The Whole You—With Weight Watchers Scales

Weight Watchers scales go beyond weight. With full body analysis, they get to know you inside and out. Because you're much more than just a number.

conatisscales.com

2. Healthy Hearts for Adventures Ahead

Keep up with the life you love. 100% whole grain Quaker Oats help reduce cholesterol as part of a heart healthy diet.*

QuakerOats.com

*3 grams of total soluble fiber daily as part of a low-saturated-fat and cholesterol diet may help reduce the risk of heart disease. Old-fashioned oatmeal provides 2 grams. Instant Quaker Cinnamon provides 1 gram.

Visit prevention.com/attention.