

## Is Pet Insurance Right for Me?

Are you wondering if pet insurance is a good idea? Like our health insurance, one must weigh the cost versus the expected benefit. Pet insurance coverage costs vary based on your pet's breed and age. The owner is able to tailor coverage to their budget with regards to premium and co-payment options. As most insurance plans pay the owner directly, you will still be responsible for the veterinary bill, then wait to be reimbursed from the insurance company. Most companies offer various options such as accident only coverage, accident and illness coverage, and wellness coverage for routine care items. We do not have any companies that we specifically recommend as everyone's needs are different. This website does a great job analyzing the top companies and their plans. But as always - be sure to do your own research to ensure you are getting what is best for you and your fur-kid.

<https://www.investopedia.com/best-pet-insurance-4787972>

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Or Current Resident

## Things to Remember about Dog Parks

Taking advantage of the last bit of warm weather before winter? Or planning to start taking your pet next Spring? There are a few important things to consider:

- Make sure your dog is up to date on all vaccinations, microchip registration, and ID licensing. (check with the dog park for all of their requirements).
- Monitor your dog at all times, especially if you are at an off-leash park.
- Use caution when taking a puppy - they may not socially be ready for an off-leash park; consider smaller play dates at friends houses instead.
- Know your local park and do a quick check of it before turning your pet off-leash. Is the park too crowded? Is all gating/fencing secure? Are the dogs already in the park appropriate play pals for your dog? Are other humans monitoring their own pets? Are there little humans running around with the dogs - is your dog ok with this?
- Ensure your pet has good recall. This is an important obedience and safety measure to have down pat.
- Take baggies to clean up after your pet.
- Don't bring toys or food if there are other pets at the park. Doing so could quickly start a fight between dogs who are possessive over such items.



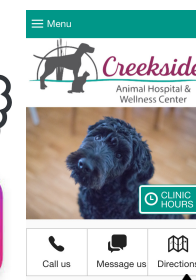
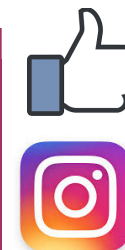
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creeksideah@gmail.com

765-742-0140  
creeksideah.com



vet2pet App

Send us your email to  
receive reminders and  
newsletters digitally.

## Dangers of Cooked Bones

The holiday season is fast approaching, which often means gatherings of family and friends for meals. The typical entrées of turkey, chicken, or ham produce leftover bones. While you may want to give these to your pets as a holiday treat, the bones can be extremely dangerous for them to consume.

Eating cooked bones can actually cause more problems than you might think. It may cause broken teeth, mouth or tongue wounds, bones looped around the lower jaw, bones stuck in roof of mouth, constipation, rectal bleeding, and windpipe, esophagus, stomach, or gastrointestinal blockage. It can also result in peritonitis, a bacterial infection caused by bone fragments poking holes in a dog's stomach and/or intestines. Peritonitis, if left untreated, can result in death.

Some human food you can give your pet: carrots, peas, green beans, cheese, and sweet potatoes. Be sure none of these have seasonings or herbs on them.

### Did you know?

There are around 18 separate muscles that control a dog's ear movements, while cats have even more at 32!!

## Senior Pet Care

We love our senior patients! Generally, we consider pets over the age of 7 years to be a senior. We want to help you keep your senior pet healthy and comfortable long into their geriatric years. Here are a few tips:

- Visit us every 6 months for an exam and testing their blood and urine. This allows us to catch diseases and organ function issues sooner.
- Note changes in your pet's behavior or appearance and discuss those with us immediately. Often these changes are medically based and there are things we can do to help them.
- Switch to a quality senior diet that provides a nutritionally balanced diet formulated for aging bodies. We recommend the brands: Hills/Science Diet, Purina, Royal Canin, and Iams.
- Provide moderate exercise. This deters anxiety related behaviors as well as maintaining muscle and joint function.
- Talk with us if your pet is starting to have difficulty breathing, has an increase in resting respiration rate, or is tiring more easily.
- Groom your senior pet at least weekly. This can be as simple as a basic brushing. While you are at it - check for lumps, sores, parasites, discharge, and/or foul-smelling ears. Be sure to keep their nails short as well to help with their mobility.
- Maintain a familiar routine and environment to help minimize stress.

## Essential Oil Safety

This is slightly more complicated than a yes or no answer. Essential oils and pets can potentially be a dangerous combination. This can happen through ingestion, topical application and/or diffusing the oils. Some oils are toxic entirely, while others are only unsafe when not in proper concentrations. Make sure to check on the safety for your pets before you introduce essential oils into your home!

- Avoid using the diffuser where pets have access to the oils.
- Do not use in enclosed areas where your pet cannot escape.
- Do not leave your diffuser operating unattended and limit the time it's used.
- Use oil-containing pet products only as directed; never apply undiluted oils directly to your pet.
- Watch for signs of toxicity. Symptoms include gagging, vomiting, drooling, difficulty breathing, coughing, panting, itching or rash, and changes in behavior (depression, stumbling, tremors, etc.)

If your pet does exhibit any of the symptoms of toxicity, move the pet away from the oil and get help (such as calling the Pet Poison Helpline and your vet).

## Technician Spotlight

In October we celebrated National Veterinary Technician Week. We love and appreciate our technicians! Do you know what technicians do? As a Registered Veterinary Technician, by law, they can do basically everything in the clinic except for the "Big 4". They cannot Diagnose, Prognose (forecast the outcome of the disease/situation), Prescribe, or Perform Surgery. Better described as veterinary nurses, our technicians are your pet's primary caretaker when they are in the hospital and your right hand "man" when it comes to knowing how to keep your pet healthy and learning what to do if they are not.

## Harmful Essential Oils

**CATS:** Eucalyptus, Oregano, Lavender

**DOGS:** Anise, Juniper, Yarrow, Garlic

**BOTH:** Pine, Sweet birch, Wintergreen, Peppermint, Tea tree (melaleuca), Citrus (d-limonene), Pennyroyal, Cinnamon, Thyme, Ylang ylang, Menthol, Nutmeg, Clove, Lemon, Orange.

Pet Poison Helpline

Phone Number:

1-855-213-6680

Website:

<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com>