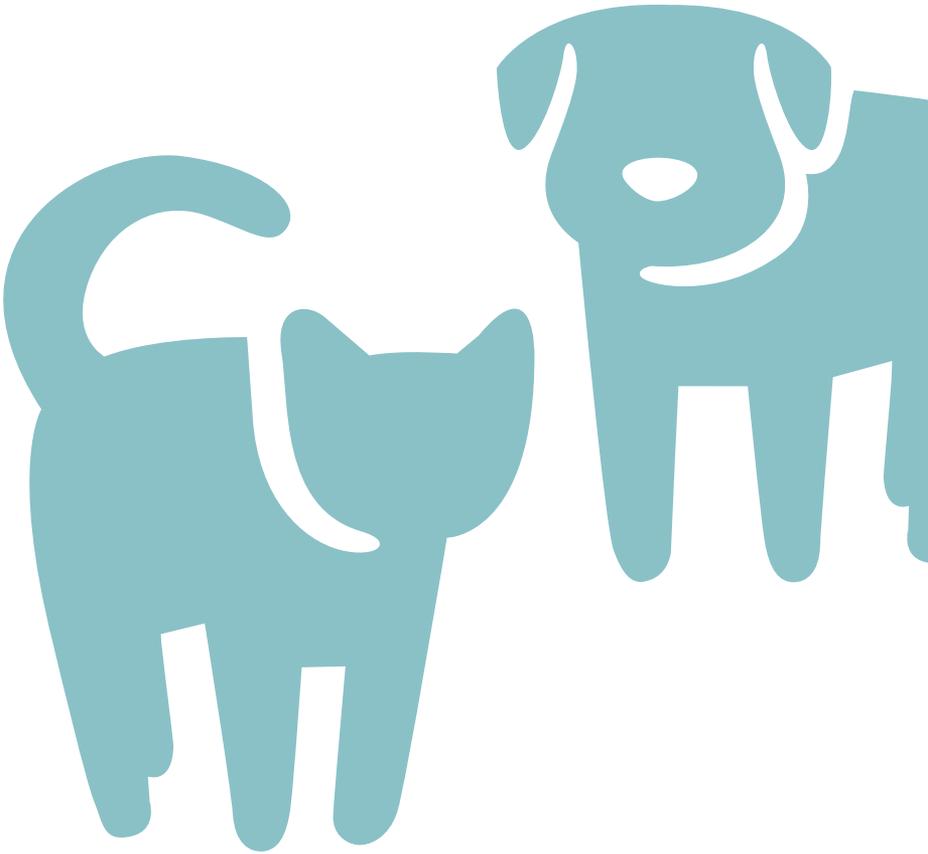


ACCIDENT & ILLNESS

# USER GUIDE



# WELCOME TO THE PETS PLUS US<sup>®</sup> COMMUNITY



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For a pet owner, one of life's most trying events is when a beloved pet has an accident or becomes ill. In support of Canadian pet owner happiness, Pets Plus Us pet insurance provides comprehensive benefits towards veterinary care, whether required due to accident(s), illness(es) or both, which is why we call this coverage:

## ACCIDENT & ILLNESS MORE AND ACCIDENT & ILLNESS MAX

*(This is your User Guide. This document is also your "Policy Terms & Conditions")*

For specific details about your *Accident & Illness* policy, please refer to the included *Summary of Coverage*, or your most recent *Summary of Coverage* that we have sent to you. This policy contains a clause which may limit the amount payable. This refers to things such as a "co-pay" or a deductible. Refer to your *Summary of Coverage* where you will find your policy effective date and information on your selected options (including "your share" or the "co-pay" and the age "deductible" amount).

Also, certain words have very specific meanings in this *User Guide*; please refer to the *Glossary* for the definitions.

We currently have another plan that provides coverage for services such as dental care, vaccines, and other wellness care that help keep your pet in peak physical health. Consider Pets Plus Us *Wellness Care* coverage. Visit [petsplusus.com](http://petsplusus.com) or call us at 1-800-364-8422 for more information.

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# COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS



## Your Accident & Illness Benefits

Up to \$7,500 or \$15,000 per year, depending on your selected level of coverage, for medically necessary veterinary services required to treat illness or injuries to your pet.

- Hospitalization
- Surgery
- Hereditary conditions
- Diagnosis
- Prescription medications
- Alternative therapies
- Behavioural therapies

The most we will pay is the benefit maximum shown on your *Summary of Coverage*.

Your co-pay applies.

Your deductible applies.

## Coverage Requirements

To be eligible for coverage all pets are required to have had a licensed veterinarian perform a complete physical exam within 12 months of the coverage inception date. If this has not been done then we require a complete physical exam be completed within 30 days of your policy inception.

## What's Not Eligible for Coverage

We are unable to provide illness coverage for pets diagnosed with, tentatively diagnosed with, or showing clinical signs of certain critical illnesses or diseases prior to the coverage effective date, or within the fourteen-day waiting period for illness coverage. Chronic uninsurable conditions include, but are not limited to, congestive heart failure, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), Feline Leukemia Virus (FELV), Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), advanced kidney failure and systemic autoimmune disease.

## Your Additional Benefits

- Boarding kennel or cattery fees—up to \$1,000 per incident if you're hospitalized and can't care for your pet (see page 9)
- Cremation or burial—up to \$1,000 if your pet passes away (see page 9)
- Holiday trip cancellation—up to \$1,000 per incident (if your pet has a medical emergency) (see page 10)
- Lost pet advertising and reward—up to \$1,000 per incident (if your pet goes missing) (see page 10)
- \$50 tribute donation to a pet charity in honour of your pet (if your pet passes away) (see page 10)

No deductible or co-pay applies to any of these *Additional Benefits*.

## What's Not Covered

- Pre-existing conditions (see your *Summary of Coverage*)
- Non-essential services & supplies
- Any reproductive system expenses, including spaying and neutering
- Vaccinations & routine procedures
- Elective procedures
- House call fees

# DETAILS ABOUT YOUR ACCIDENT & ILLNESS BENEFITS



Here's where you'll find useful information about the details of the insurance benefits we provide for your pet, as a direct result of an eligible accident or illness.

## **Benefit Maximum**

We do not pay more than (i) \$7,500 per policy year for *Accident & Illness MORE* policies; or (ii) \$15,000 per policy year for *Accident & Illness MAX* policies.

There is no lifetime limit or cap that applies to your pet.

We pay a benefit when services are provided by any veterinarian licensed in Canada or the United States (when you and your pet are travelling in the United States).

You must satisfy any applicable co-insurance and deductible for all coverage, unless stated otherwise below.

Subject to these terms and conditions, we cover the following medically necessary expenses required to treat illness, or injury to your pet. The accident or illness must occur after the expiry of the waiting period and while your policy is in effect.

### **1. Veterinary services**

Consultations, exams, emergency care, hospitalization, drugs, surgery, anaesthesia, specialist referrals and other medical procedures performed by a licensed veterinarian;

### **2. Alternative therapies**

Acupuncture, chiropractic services, naturopathy, hydrotherapy, massage therapy and physiotherapy are all eligible expenses, if provided by, or under the supervision of, a licensed veterinarian and related to an eligible accident or illness;

### **3. Behavioural therapy**

Veterinary consultations to diagnose and treat your pet's abnormal behaviour, or for behavioural problems due to an underlying medical condition, are all eligible expenses. When referred by your veterinarian, we'll also pay the cost of treatment by a certified animal behavioural therapist. If behavioural therapy is being offered by someone other than veterinarian, we recommend requesting a pre-approval before therapy begins;

### **4. Dental treatment**

We cover and pay for expenses required for the necessary extraction of traumatically fractured non-diseased teeth in an otherwise healthy mouth (this does not include deciduous teeth or non-erupted teeth);

### **5. Medical devices**

Up to \$1,000 for the cost of medical devices (for example, a canine wheelchair) as prescribed by your veterinarian and subject to our prior approval; and

### **6. Prescription diet foods**

We will cover and pay for the cost of prescription food for up to a two months' supply per policy year, if recommended by your veterinarian as a necessary therapy to treat a covered illness. Limit of \$50 per cat and \$200 per dog, per policy year.

# ADDITIONAL BENEFITS



Here's where you'll find useful information about the details of the *Additional Benefits* (these are in addition to the *Accident & Illness Benefits*) we provide for your pet.

## **Benefit Maximum**

There is no policy year or lifetime maximum for the *Additional Benefits*. There are specific limits that apply per incident as further described below.

Subject to these terms and conditions, we cover the following if the incident occurs after the waiting period and while your policy is in effect:

### **1. Boarding kennel or cattery fees**

Boarding fees if you are hospitalized as a result of an accident or illness. The period of your, or your immediate family member's, hospitalization and the period of stay in a kennel or cattery must occur while this policy is in effect, after expiry of the applicable waiting period. Limit is \$1,000 per incident, and up to a maximum of \$30 per day.

### **2. Cremation or burial costs for your pet**

Cremation or burial costs, if your pet passes as the direct result of an accident or illness. Any illness suffered by your pet causing death must not be excluded from coverage. Any accident causing the death of your pet must occur after expiry of the applicable waiting period and while your policy is in effect. In all cases, the accident/illness, or the death of your pet, must occur after expiry of the applicable waiting period and while your policy is in effect. Limit is \$1,000.

### **3. Holiday trip cancellation**

We reimburse travel and accommodation costs when your pet receives life-saving emergency treatment that requires you, to cancel within seven days before leaving, or to cut short a holiday. The emergency treatment must occur after expiry of the applicable waiting period and while your policy is in effect. Limit is \$1,000 per incident.

#### **To be eligible for trip cancellation benefits:**

1. You must not have recovered travel and accommodation costs from other sources.
2. You must have booked your holiday 28 days or more in advance.
3. Any accident or illness suffered by your pet necessitating the emergency treatment must not be excluded from coverage.
4. Any accident or illness necessitating such emergency treatment must occur after expiry of the applicable waiting period and while your policy is in effect.

### **4. Lost pet advertising and reward**

We reimburse the cost of advertising and reward money, if your pet goes missing for longer than 48 hours and you've reported your loss to a local shelter, humane society or animal services agency. Your pet must go missing after expiry of the applicable waiting period while your policy is in effect. Limit is up to \$1,000 per incident.

To be eligible for reimbursement the person you are rewarding can't be your immediate family, or a person you employ or with which you live. For any reward amount, we need a signed receipt from the person who (thankfully) found your pet.

### **5. Pet tribute**

We'll donate \$50 as a tribute in honour of your pet to one of our Pets Plus Us tribute charities in your pet's name should your pet pass away, after expiry of the applicable waiting period and while your coverage is in effect.

# EXCLUSIONS— WHAT WE DON'T COVER



Knowing what charges aren't eligible under your coverage is important. This can help you make decisions on responsible care for your pet's health and well-being.

This part of your *User Guide* describes what isn't included under your coverage. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-364-8422 and we'll be happy to explain in more detail.

We do not cover, and will not make payments for any loss or claim resulting in whole or in part from, or contributed to, by any of the following:

***Expenses for conditions or expenses arising due to complications from conditions or procedures excluded under this policy.***

## **Pre-existing conditions**

A pre-existing condition refers to any condition for which a veterinarian provided medical advice, the pet received treatment for, a veterinarian determines began prior to, or the pet displayed signs or symptoms consistent with, or associated with, the stated condition prior to the effective date of the policy or during any waiting period. When referring to exclusions or policy limits, bilateral conditions are considered as one condition (for example: cruciate ligaments, hip dysplasia, ear or eye problems).

We request your pet's existing veterinary records upfront, and we let you know if there are any exclusions for pre-existing conditions. These appear on your *Summary of Coverage*.

We do this because we want you to be happy with your coverage, be secure in your level of protection and know beforehand whether your pet's medical condition is excluded – rather than being the bearers of bad news later during an already stressful time.

All permanent and temporary exclusions (based upon pre-existing conditions) that apply are set out on your *Summary of Coverage*. Your *Summary of Coverage* will include the details on any temporary or permanent pre-existing conditions exclusions.

### **Temporary or permanent pre-existing conditions exclusions**

Some conditions may be permanently excluded from coverage while others may be temporarily excluded. If a condition is permanently excluded (this is due to the life-long nature of the particular condition), your pet will never be eligible for coverage from us for any such condition whether under this or any other Pets Plus Us coverage. Other types of medical conditions are temporary in nature, and we exclude these only for a temporary period.

If the exclusion is temporary, a request to review this exclusion (after a predetermined period of time, usually after 6-12 months) may be submitted.

To request an exclusion review, you may contact us at 1-800-364-8422 or email [info@petsplusus.com](mailto:info@petsplusus.com). When submitting your request please note the following:

- Throughout the duration of the temporary exclusion period, your pet must have been symptom free from, and not received any preventive treatment for, the excluded condition.
- We require that your pet has had an up to date physical exam within 60 days of the exclusion review request.
- In order to complete the review, you must provide us with your pet's complete medical history for the 12 months prior to the exclusion review date.

### **Example: Temporary exclusion**

Mila's dog Barney had been having persistent bouts of diarrhea for several months that required repeated visits to Barney's veterinarian. Mila decided that getting Pets Plus Us *Accident & Illness* insurance was a good idea, especially since she was worried Barney might develop other medical issues. She also found talking with other Pets Plus Us Community members informative and helpful during this stressful time.

Barney would receive full coverage – except for his diarrhea issues. This would be considered a temporary exclusion. Mila was informed by us, when she enrolled Barney for coverage, that this exclusion would be revisited after 12 months, if his diarrhea didn't come back during that time.

### **Example: Permanent exclusion**

Donna had a kitten named Oscar who was constantly getting into trouble. One day Oscar chased a toy down the hall, slid and unfortunately fell down half a flight of stairs, banging his elbow hard on the way down. Donna immediately took Oscar to the veterinarian for an exam, where he was treated for minor bruising and gradually recovered from the ordeal.

Two years later, Oscar began to show signs of tenderness around the joint in the same leg he had bruised in his fall. Around this same time, Donna decided to get Pets Plus Us *Accident & Illness* insurance for Oscar. Due to his previous fall, the veterinarian had recently noted signs of Oscar developing arthritis in his previously injured joint. Because we gather veterinary records prior to confirming coverage, Donna was informed that Oscar's coverage would have a permanent exclusion for arthritis.

Donna liked the fact that she knew upfront what her coverage would and would not cover. Since Oscar was so playful and mischievous, Donna felt good knowing she'd be covered for whatever else happened throughout Oscar's entire lifetime.

## Other excluded items

### **Anal Glands**

Expenses related to routine anal gland expression or impaction/abnormal fluid consistent with minor infection (Sacculitis).

### **Behavioural problems**

- Expenses related to an accident arising from your pet's known behavioural problem.

### **Behavioural training**

- Classes or non-therapeutic training; or
- Correctional devices or preventive products.

### **Boarding kennel or cattery fees related to you being:**

- Hospitalized for an accident or illness that first happened or showed symptoms within the waiting period or before the policy effective date;
- Pregnant or giving birth; or
- Hospitalized for treatment of alcohol or drug abuse or addiction, attempted suicide, self-inflicted injuries or cosmetic surgery.

### **Senior Pets**

Any pet dog aged eight years and older (six years and older for dogs of giant breeds), or any pet cat aged eight years and up is required to submit senior requirements as outlined below within 30 days of signing up for coverage. Coverage will be cancelled if complete senior requirements are not submitted within 30 days of signing up.

- A veterinarian has performed a complete physical exam of all body systems with appropriate documentation in the medical records, geriatric blood profile (including T4) and a complete urinalysis (including sediment) on your pet within the past two months; and
- Your pet is current with required vaccines.

### **Cremation or burial of your pet**

We do not pay this benefit if your pet's death results from an excluded pre-existing condition or any other condition that is excluded. Coverage for cremation or burial costs does not extend to a memorial paw print.

### **Dental**

- Teeth cleaning or polishing;
- Treatment of tooth structure irregularities, improper bites, tooth pulp or root problems and removal of deciduous teeth, non-erupted teeth, or teeth affected by cervical neck lesions; or
- Endodontic and orthodontic care.

### **Elective procedures**

Procedures considered to be medically unnecessary including but not limited to: cosmetic surgery, debarking, declawing, ear cropping, nail trims, grooming, nasal or skin folds, stenotic nares or tail docking.

### **House calls**

Expenses related to making a house call unless a veterinarian certifies that a visit is essential in an emergency.

### **Inappropriate care**

Costs resulting from neglect, abuse or intentional injury of your pet by you or any member of your household.

### **Medications**

Expenses related to medication that does not have, in Canada, a Drug Identification Number (DIN), a Natural Health Product (NHP) number or an Interim Notification Program (INP) number.

### **Non-essential services and supplies**

Expenses related to grooming, mineral supplements, vitamins, non-prescription pet food (although we do cover certain prescription foods for a period of up to two months), and regular or medicated baths.

### **Nuclear incidents**

Expenses that result from a nuclear explosion, contamination by radioactive material or any nuclear incident as defined in the *Nuclear Liability Act*.

### **Post-mortems**

Post-mortem tests or procedures.

**Reproduction and the reproductive system**

Expenses related to, or complications that arise from, any illness involving reproduction or the reproductive system, including:

1. Pregnancy, queening or whelping or:
2. Aftercare of litter and other routine procedures, or
3. Spaying or neutering or any sterilization procedure.

**Risky activities**

We don't offer coverage or pay for expenses that ensue from activities such as commercial guarding, organized fighting, the pursuit of prey, or racing. We do provide coverage for dogs used in the recreational hunting of upland birds or waterfowl.

**Time and travel expenses**

Travel costs to and from an animal hospital or the veterinarian's location.

**Vaccines and routine procedures**

Expenses related to, or expenses arising from, complications due to vaccination-associated exams and other preventive procedures, including but not limited to routine anal gland expression.

**War activities**

Expenses for illness or injury caused by war activities such as acts of terrorism, bombardment, civil war, rebellion or any armed force action. This exclusion applies whether or not war has been declared.

# WHEN COVERAGE TAKES EFFECT



This section shows the waiting period that applies to each of your benefits. There is no coverage unless the accident, onset of illness, or other triggering event, occurs after expiry of the waiting period.

Coverage type	Waiting period
Accident	48 hours
Illness	14 days
Additional Benefits	48 hours

All waiting periods start at 12:01 A.M. on your policy effective date.

# WHEN YOUR POLICY ENDS



**Your policy and all coverage ends on the earliest of:**

1. The date we terminate your contract in accordance with Section 5(1) of the Statutory Conditions because you have not paid your premium when due;
2. The next month's policy anniversary date following the date we receive your cancellation request; and
3. The date your pet passes away.

# YOUR OBLIGATIONS



Below we describe your responsibilities in paying for coverage and sharing costs.

## The Cost

The cost for your Pets Plus Us policy is the premium. You must pay the premium that applies to your policy to keep the coverage in effect. The amount of the premium can be determined by reviewing your *Summary of Coverage*. Premiums are due monthly on your payment date.

Your premium and/or coverage features do not change more frequently than once in any 12-month period. We will give you advance notice of any changes.

## Your Share and Your Deductible

This section explains the amount that we reimburse you, and how much you pay.

By contributing your share, everyone benefits. Because of your contribution, we're able to keep our cost for coverage competitive, while providing you with additional services that can help make being a pet owner a lot easier. Championing pet owner happiness is what we, at Pets Plus Us, do best.

As a member, you participate in coverage costs by paying a percentage of the cost of care (your "Share"). In insurance-speak, this is often called "co-pay" or "co-insurance."

You also pay a deductible that is based on your pet's age. Both your share and your deductible depend on the levels that you selected when you enrolled, as shown on your *Summary of Coverage*.

## YOUR SHARE:

Your share is:	We reimburse:
10%	90%
20%	80%
30%	70%

### Please bear in mind that:

- Your share is applied first, followed by your selected deductible.
- The deductible is an annual amount so, once you've paid it, it won't be applied again in that policy year.
- The deductible will vary based on the option you choose, as well as your pet's age as shown below.
- As pets get older, we know the cost of their veterinary care increases. However, we don't want your premiums to rise dramatically—particularly if you haven't submitted a reimbursement request. We manage these costs by adjusting the deductible amount instead of increasing the premium. You never pay the deductible unless your pet actually needs veterinary care and you have to make a reimbursement request.
- Taxes are included in the amounts paid back to you under all Pets Plus Us coverage.

## AGE-BASED ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLE OPTIONS FOR DOGS:

Pet's age	Option A	Option B	Option C
Under 5 years	\$100	\$200	\$300
5 to 10 years	\$300	\$400	\$500
Over 10 years	\$500	\$600	\$700

## AGE-BASED ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLE OPTIONS FOR CATS:

Pet's age	Option A	Option B	Option C
Under 5 years	\$100	\$200	\$300
5 to 10 years	\$200	\$300	\$400
Over 10 years	\$300	\$400	\$500

## When the deductible is applied

The deductible is applied annually based on the policy anniversary date and not on your pet's actual birthday. So, if your pet turns five in the middle of a policy year, your deductible won't go up until on or after your policy anniversary date.

### Sample calculation

Dave had an inquisitive chocolate lab named Winston. One day, Dave had to travel out of town, and his wife forgot to lock the cupboard where five bags of dry dog treats were stored. Winston devoured all the treats and had to be rushed to the vet for emergency treatment.

Dave chose 20% as his "Share" option. He had also selected Option B—a \$200 annual deductible because Winston was four at the last policy anniversary. When Winston got sick, there was \$2,000 in veterinary expenses and Dave made his first claim of the year. Pets Plus Us reimbursed Dave \$1,400 which represented 80% of the vet bill, less the deductible.

#### Example: Dave's reimbursement request

Veterinary bill	\$2,000 (including taxes)
Less Dave's share (20%)	- \$400
Less Dave's selected annual deductible	- \$200
Pets Plus Us reimburses Dave	\$1,400

A few months later, Winston had a minor accident that required overnight hospitalization. This time Dave's bills totaled \$1,500. Because Dave had already paid an annual deductible, this time there was no deductible. So his share was \$300 and Pets Plus Us paid him \$1,200.

#### Example: Dave's reimbursement request

Veterinary bill	\$1,500 (including taxes)
Less Dave's share (20%)	- \$300
Less Dave's selected annual deductible	- \$0
Pets Plus Us reimburses Dave	\$1,200

# REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST



Here's where you'll find information about how to submit your reimbursement request (also known as "making a claim") and what you need to do prior to making the request.

Your reimbursement is a priority at Pets Plus Us. We will process all reimbursement requests – whether simple or complex – as quickly as possible once we have received all of the required documentation. You'll hear from us if there's any delay, such as needing to contact your veterinarian directly for more information.

Two of the most common problems that can delay reimbursement requests are:

- Forgetting to get your veterinarian's signature and practice information on the reimbursement request form; and
- Failing to provide all eligible receipts.

## **Financial responsibility**

You must pay your veterinarian first for all services and treatments, and then submit a reimbursement request to us. We'll reimburse you for all eligible costs based on the specified amounts and coverage outlined in this document.

For more expensive procedures we can make special arrangements with your veterinarian for direct payment. Talk to one of our representatives to request this arrangement.

## **Reimbursement request forms**

These are typically available from your veterinary clinic, on our website, or by calling one of our Pets Plus Us representatives at 1-800-364-8422.

Please note that we have special reimbursement request forms for the *Additional Benefits* such as boarding kennel or cattery fees, cremation or burial, holiday trip cancellation or lost pet advertising and rewards. A Pets Plus Us representative can help you get any of these forms as well.

### **How to request reimbursement**

You and your veterinarian must fill out and sign our Pets Plus Us simplified reimbursement request form. Forward the completed form together with itemized receipts for the pertinent costs. You may submit reimbursement request forms by mail, fax or email to the address below:

- Mailing address: 2-1115 N Service Road W., Oakville, Ontario L6M 2V9
- Toll-free phone #: 1-800-364-8422 (general)
- Toll-free fax #: 1-855-456-7387 (claims/reimbursement requests)
- Email: [submissions@petsplusus.com](mailto:submissions@petsplusus.com)

### **Before you submit**

To avoid processing delays, please ensure that the reimbursement request form includes all the following:

- Your name, correct mailing address, signature, and policy number;
- Your veterinarian's signature and practice stamp;
- The name of the illness or injury eligible for reimbursement, completed by your veterinarian; and
- Is accompanied by all paid-in-full receipts (including an itemized breakdown of charges).

### **When reimbursement requests are eligible**

We only pay reimbursement requests that we receive no later than six months from the treatment date or within 60 days of the date your policy terminates, whichever occurs first.

Costs must be incurred while your policy is in effect, and after the waiting period has expired.

### **Ineligible reimbursement charges**

We are unable to reimburse you or your veterinarian for administrative tasks like completing any forms, filing fees, prescription or dispensing fees, courier fees or charges for sending medical records, even if your veterinarian chooses to bill you for this.

### **Other reimbursement rules**

We are unable to process reimbursement requests if your premium isn't up to date when you make the request.

Reimbursement for charges that you pay in U.S. currency will be adjusted to Canadian dollars without applying any currency conversion exchange. For example, \$800 in U.S. charges will be considered as \$800 in Canadian funds. We do this because your premium is paid in Canadian dollars and is set based on Canadian veterinary fees.

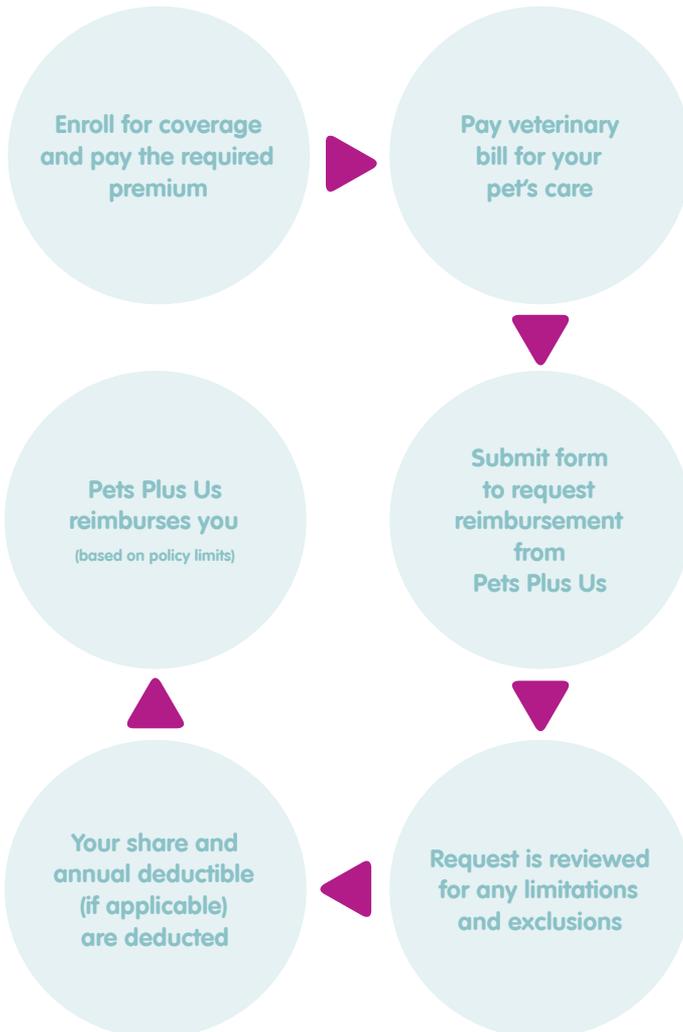
### **Insurance fraud hurts all pet owners!**

If we discover that you've made a false or exaggerated reimbursement request, your coverage will be voided immediately.

# HOW YOUR COVERAGE WORKS



The chart below gives an overview of your Pets Plus Us coverage procedures.



# LEGAL STUFF



We understand that reading legal documents isn't fun. However, it's still vitally important that you understand your coverage, rights and legal responsibilities.

## **Changes**

Your premium and/or coverage features do not change more frequently than once in any 12 month period. We will advise you of any changes at least 30 days in advance.

You can also apply for changes to your coverage at any time. If approved, these changes will take effect on the next month's policy anniversary date following the date we receive your change request. We will send you a new *Summary of Coverage*.

Changes also include upgrading or downgrading to a different coverage option and where there is a change in your address that affects your premium.

## **Downgrading and Upgrading coverage**

You can change to one of our available plans with a higher or lower limit for your *Accident & Illness Benefits*. There are some limitations and exclusions that apply to these requests. One of our representatives would be happy to explain these options to you.

## **Cancellation**

You must ask to cancel this coverage in writing by mail, fax or e-mail. Cancellation will take effect on your policy anniversary date following the date we received your cancellation request. If your pet passes, we'll automatically backdate your cancellation to the date on which they passed.

We know we have a great product, but if for some reason you decide to cancel your coverage, you have 30 days from the date you complete and submit your application to cancel without any financial obligation. In the event that you notify us to cancel within that period, we will refund any part of the premium that you have paid and your policy shall be void, as long as we have not reimbursed you for any claims.

### **Other Coverage**

The coverage outlined in this policy is second payor. That means that if there are other insurance plans, contracts, or any plan, providing you an indemnity in respect of your pet for veterinary or therapeutic expenses, we only pay for expenses incurred in excess of what is reimbursed under such other coverage. Total benefits paid to you under all plans cannot exceed your actual expenses.

### **Coverage Restrictions**

We are unable to provide illness coverage for pets diagnosed with, tentatively diagnosed with, or showing clinical signs of certain critical illnesses or diseases prior to the coverage effective date, or within the fourteen-day waiting period for illness coverage. Chronic uninsurable conditions include, but are not limited to, congestive heart failure, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), Feline Leukemia Virus (FELV), Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), kidney failure and autoimmune diseases.

### **E-mail notification**

You can agree to receive your policy documents and notices electronically. If so, we'll consider those items as received by you on the date they are sent to the last verified e-mail address we have on record in our system.

### **Governing laws**

Your Pets Plus Us coverage is subject to all applicable Canadian laws.

**Insurance contract**

Your contract with us includes your application for insurance, this *User Guide*, your *Summary of Coverage*, as amended from time to time in accordance with the policy terms and conditions, any document accompanying the *User Guide* when issued, as well as any amendments agreed or provided in writing after the policy is issued. The contract also includes any trial coverage or vouchers you may have held with us prior to our issuing of the policy.

**Legal actions**

We have the right to subrogate. This means that if someone else is found to be responsible for an accident or illness for which we pay an amount, we have the right to legally pursue them, in your name, and recover any incurred amounts that we paid. You must help us if we ask you, by executing such documents as are necessary and by cooperating with us.

Every action or proceeding against an insurer for the recovery of insurance money payable under the contract is absolutely barred unless commenced within the time set out in the *Insurance Act* or other legislation applicable in your province.

**Rights of recovery**

You must fully comply with all terms and conditions of your contract. You may only start legal action against us within one year after you have provided us with written proof of loss. You also have up to one year from the date we require written proof of loss to take legal action in order to recover a reimbursement amount under this coverage.

# GLOSSARY



Words are powerful. We understand that they sometimes can have different meanings to different people. That's why we prepared the following list of terms so you understand exactly what we mean.

## **accident**

An unforeseen and unplanned traumatic event that:

- Results in injury to your pet independent of all other causes; and
- Involves an external force, impact or contact with an inanimate object.

Examples of an accident are falling from a balcony or cutting a paw on glass.

## **associated condition**

Any medical condition or complication arising from another condition for which your pet showed signs or symptoms that are directly related to and caused by the primary medical condition. This includes any medical condition resulting from any treatments for the associated conditions such as alternative therapies, diagnostic testing, medication and prescription diets.

## **bi-lateral condition**

Any condition affecting body parts of which Your Pet has two, one on each side of the body (examples: cruciate ligaments, hip dysplasia, ear or eye problems).

## **condition**

All manifestations of clinical signs resulting from the same diagnostic classification or disease process, regardless of the number of incidents or areas of the body affected. For example, arthritis in your pet's legs, back and neck is all considered one condition.

## **contract (also called policy)**

Your insurance agreement with us which is evidenced by your application for insurance, this *User Guide*, your *Summary of Coverage* as amended from time to time, the *Statutory Conditions* booklet and any document attached to this *User Guide* when issued, as well as any amendments agreed or provided in writing after the policy is issued.

The contract also includes any trial coverage or vouchers you may have held with us prior to our issuing of the policy. Please keep all policy documents together in a safe place.

## **co-pay (also called share, your share)**

The share of your claim that you must pay before your deductible is applied. Your share is set out on your *Summary of Coverage*.

## **coverage (also called policy, insurance)**

The protection for your pet under the terms and conditions of your coverage option as specified on your *Summary of Coverage*.

**deductible (see also co-pay)**

The annual amount that you pay before we make reimbursement under your policy. Your deductible is set out on your *Summary of Coverage*.

**endodontic care (known as root canal treatment)**

Professional dental treatment in which diseased or damaged tooth pulp is removed. The canal inside the tooth is then filled and sealed.

 **euthanasia**

The humane medical procedure in which a veterinarian ends a pet's life.

**hospitalization**

For a human being, medically necessary confinement in a legally constituted and accredited hospital in North America which provides 24-hour nursing care by registered nurses, has organized facilities for diagnosis and major surgical procedures, and operates primarily for the care and treatment of sick and injured persons.

For your pet, "hospitalization" means: medically necessary confinement in an animal hospital that is operated under the supervision of one or more licensed veterinarians.

**illness**

Sickness, disease and any changes to your pet's normal healthy state that a veterinarian diagnoses.

**immediate family**

Your spouse (legal or common law), and any of your children, parents, brothers or sisters.

**insurance (see coverage)****kitten**

A young cat aged seven weeks to one year.

**medical emergency**

An accident or illness that requires immediate life-saving treatment prescribed by a licensed veterinarian.

**medically necessary**

Required care that a veterinarian prescribes and performs that is directly related to the resolution or control of the medical condition being treated.

**medication**

A drug or medicine that a veterinarian recommends for the care of your pet, that the Veterinary Drug Directorate (VDD) approves for veterinary use and has a valid Drug Identification Number (DIN), a Natural Health Product Number (NHP) or an Interim Notification Program (INP) number.

**member**

A participant in the Pets Plus Us Community who owns the pet protected under this coverage option.

**member number**

This number identifies the member who holds one or more coverage options for one or more pets or multiple coverage options for one pet.

**orthodontic care**

Professional dental treatment to make teeth line up correctly.

**permanent exclusion**

An abnormal health state or other limitation ineligible under this policy regardless of subsequent treatment.

**pet**

The dog or cat named in your *Summary of Coverage*.

**Pets Plus Us Community**

A community of pet lovers who want to share experiences, improve their pets' quality of life and do everything possible to safeguard the health and welfare of their pets. You, as a policyholder, are a member of the Pets Plus Us Community.

**policy, policy documents  
(see contract)****policy anniversary date**

The first anniversary of your policy effective date and each anniversary thereafter.

**policy effective date**

The date your contract with us comes into effect. The waiting period applies after the policy effective date. This date is set out on your *Summary of Coverage*.

**policy number**

The specific policy number we use to identify you and the coverage you have for your pet. Please note that we can have multiple policy numbers for you, if you have more than one coverage option with us. The policy number appears on your *Summary of Coverage*.

**policy year**

Each 12-month period that ends on a policy anniversary date.

**post-mortem**

Relating to a medical examination occurring or conducted after the death of a pet.

**pre-existing condition**

Any condition for which a veterinarian provided medical advice, the pet received treatment for, or the pet displayed signs or symptoms consistent with, or associated with, the stated condition prior to the effective date of the policy or during any waiting period.

**puppy**

A young dog aged seven weeks to one year.

**reimbursement**

The portion of total covered charges that we pay.

**reimbursement request  
(also called claim)**

An application for reimbursement that you submit to us.

**senior pet**

A dog or cat aged eight years and over (giant dog breeds are considered senior at 6 years and over).

**share, our share (see reimbursement)****share, your share (see co-pay)****statutory conditions**

Conditions that by law in some provinces must be included in your contract. In other provinces, they are part of the contract, but this is not required by statute.

**Summary of Coverage**

The document that accompanies this *User Guide* setting out the policy effective date, your selected benefit options and other details of your coverage. This includes any *Summary of Coverage* we issue to you to replace an earlier version. The *Summary of Coverage* forms part of your contract.

**temporary exclusion**

An abnormal health state or other limitation that may become eligible under this policy provided that a veterinarian certifies that your pet has completely recovered.

**treatment**

Medical care that a veterinarian provides for your pet as the result of an illness or accidental injury.

**User Guide (also called guide)**

This *User Guide* which also constitutes your policy terms and conditions.

**veterinarian**

A medical professional who is properly licensed in Canada to provide medical treatment for your pet and who is acting within the scope of their license.

**veterinary vaccines**

Immunizations against vaccine-preventable disease, as set out and recognized by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

**waiting period**

The period of time after your policy effective date that must elapse before there is coverage for an accident, illness or other event. There is no coverage for an accident or other event that occurs before the expiry of the applicable waiting period. There is no coverage for an illness if the onset of the illness is before the expiry of the applicable waiting period, or shows clinical signs or symptoms during those durations.

**we, our, us**

Pets Plus Us, a division of PTZ Insurance Services Ltd.

**you, your**

The person named in the *Summary of Coverage* as the policyholder who is the party to the insurance contract with us.

## CONTACTS

Please stay in touch! Below is some important contact information if you have more questions about your coverage, or need to change your personal information.

**Call us toll-free at: 1-800-364-8422**

**Email us at: [info@petsplusus.com](mailto:info@petsplusus.com)**

**Visit us at: [petsplusus.com](https://petsplusus.com)**

See your *Blue Ribbon Benefits Guide* included with your Welcome Package to learn more about the additional products and services that come with being part of the Pets Plus Us Community!