

Pet Safety Handbook



**PET
INSURANCE**

Underwritten by Independence American Insurance Co.



Every Dog Deserves the
Pet Insurance of Champions

Insurance is underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company with offices at 485 Madison Ave, NY, NY 10022 and underwritten in WA by American Pet Insurance Company, 6100 4th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98108.



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Puppy Essentials

Veterinarian

Identify a trustworthy veterinarian to serve as your partner in pet care throughout your dog's life.

Crate & Bedding

Have a safe crate that your puppy is able to comfortably lay down, stand up, stretch, and turn around in. Be sure the crate is neither too big nor too small for your puppy. Include comfortable, easily-washable bedding.

Collar, Leash, & ID Tag

Adjustable nylon collars are best for puppies since they grow quickly. Two fingers should be able to fit under the collar when worn. Do not use "slip" leads or "choke" collars on young puppies. The collar should have an ID tag that includes your puppy's name and your phone number. While outside, be sure your puppy has their collar and ID on at all times.

Food & Water Bowls

Ensure that you have appropriate food and water bowls before bringing home your pup. You may need to buy bigger bowls as your puppy grows, but it's better to start small.

Dog Food & Treats

Consult an expert like your breeder or veterinarian before selecting a food for your puppy. Keep some healthy, puppy-sized treats on hand to use as a reward for training. Make sure to serve them sparingly!

Microchip

Microchips provide your dog with a unique ID number. If they're ever lost, a shelter or animal control organization can scan the chip to reunite you with them.

Bathing & Grooming Supplies

Ask your veterinarian or your local pet store for recommendations on grooming supplies that are safe for puppies. Don't forget about brushes and nail clippers.

Toys

Choose puppy specific toys that are plush, rope, rubber, plastic, or chew-friendly. They should be made with durable, puppy-safe materials that they can't destroy. Puppies should be supervised with their toys to avoid ingestion.



Pet Insurance: So You Can Play More and Worry Less

Curious, energetic pups love to explore their new environment, often leading to an unexpected accident, illness, and costly vet visit. Pet insurance allows you to focus more on enjoying time with your new puppy and less on worrying about costs.

Did You Know?

- **1 in 3** pets requires emergency care each year.¹
- The average cost for unexpected veterinary care is between **\$800 and \$1,500.**¹

Pet Insurance 101

Pet insurance can help cover expenses related to treating accidents, illnesses, and injuries that your new puppy may experience. Depending on the policy add-ons you choose, pet insurance may also reimburse you for costs associated with hereditary, congenital, and other chronic conditions.

Common puppy injuries and illnesses include:

- ✓ Vomiting & diarrhea
- ✓ Foreign body ingestion
- ✓ Allergies
- ✓ Urinary tract infections

Covered expenses may include:

- ✓ Broken Bones
- ✓ Cancer
- ✓ Toxin Ingestion
- ✓ Foreign Body Ingestion
- ✓ Digestive Issues
- ✓ Surgery
- ✓ Prescription Medication
- ✓ Pre-Existing Conditions**
- ✓ Hospitalization
- ✓ Alternative Treatments*
- ✓ Behavioral Issues*
- ✓ Breeding related conditions*

¹<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/14/are-you-prepared-for-a-pet-emergency-most-americans-are-not.html>

*Not available in all states. **After 12-months waiting period.

How Does Pet Insurance Work?

Unlike human health insurance, pet insurance works on a reimbursement basis. There are no provider networks either. That means you can go to any vet of your choice.

1. Visit any vet, specialist or emergency clinic and pay your bill as usual. Be sure to get an itemized invoice.
2. Submit a claim via AKC Pet Insurance customer portal, email, postal mail, fax, or TailTrax® app. Include your itemized invoice.
3. Once your claim has been processed, you will be reimbursed for eligible expenses either by check or direct deposit.

AKC Pet Insurance

AKC Pet Insurance has supported breeders and dog owners since 2003 as the only pet insurance brand trusted by the American Kennel Club. AKC Pet Insurance also offers the most comprehensive pre-existing conditions coverage** for commonly excluded conditions like cancer, urinary tract infections, chronic ear infections, gastrointestinal issues, and more.

Personalize Your Plan:

1. Select your base coverage, our Accident & Illness plan.
2. Choose your annual deductible amount, reimbursement percentage, and annual benefit limit.
3. Review optional policy add-on coverage to further customize your plan. You may be eligible for Exam, Hereditary, and routine Wellness care coverage*.

**Learn more and get a quote by visiting
www.akcpetinsurance.com or calling 866-725-2747.**

*Insurance is underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company with offices at 485 Madison Ave, NY, NY 10022 and in WA, by American Pet Insurance Company, 6100 4th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98108. Insurance plans are offered and administered by PetPartners, Inc., a licensed agency. "American Kennel Club," "AKC" and the AKC logo are trademarks of The American Kennel Club, Inc.; used under license by PetPartners. "AKC Pet Insurance" is the name used by PetPartners to offer and administer insurance plans and is neither an American Kennel Club business nor an insurance company. American Kennel Club does not offer, administer, solicit, market, or sell any insurance plans. For a sample policy refer to www.akcpetinsurance.com/sample-policies. **Pre-existing conditions coverage after a 12-month waiting period. Not available in all states. Age limits and other restrictions may apply. Policyholders also get access to a 24/7 Vet Helpline, TailTrax mobile app and PetGenius Rx prescription discount program. PetGenius Rx is not insurance.

Not available in KS and TN.

Training Tips

No question about it, training a new puppy can be hard! Incorporating training into your play can help make learning fun for your puppy. Below are some tips to consider when it comes to training a new puppy.

House Rules

Before your puppy comes home, you should establish ground rules that all family members know to enforce. Be consistent with rules for your puppy, so they know what to expect.

Chewing

While your puppy may look cute chewing on a shoe twice their size, don't encourage destructive behavior. Give your puppy a teething toy and praise them when they choose to chew on it.

"Puppy Time"

Remember that puppies have very short attention spans. If your puppy does something bad, let them know appropriately and immediately. If you wait, even minutes, your puppy may not associate your response with their bad behavior.

Training Aids

There are many options when it comes to training your puppy or dog. Clicker training, verbal praise, toys, and treats are all options. More high-tech products are now available to assist with training. Get help from a reputable dog trainer to determine what works best for your puppy.





Your Pet's World In Your Pocket

TailTrax gives you the ability to conveniently and easily manage everything for your pet in a user-friendly app. Download today to see all that TailTrax has to offer!



Store & Share Records

Upload important documents like vaccination records, microchip information, and AKC papers directly onto your mobile device and easily share with friends, family, vets, and pet sitters.

Contact 24/7 Vet Helpline

Get around-the-clock pet care advice and support from licensed pet health professionals anytime, anywhere.

Find Dog-Friendly Establishments

No matter where you are, TailTrax can locate nearby dog-friendly hotels and restaurants, vet clinics, dog parks, boarding, and more.

Access Pet Insurance Information

Policyholders can easily access their customer portal through the app where you can view policy documents, submit claims, view claim status, and more.

Download Today!

©TailTrax is a mobile application owned by PetPartners, Inc. located at 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 350, Raleigh, NC 27617-2028.

First Pet Visit

Vet Visit Expectations

Your puppy's first veterinary appointment should take place very soon after they come home. This allows your vet to get acquainted with your new pup and get a baseline understanding of their health. It also gives you the opportunity to ask questions.

- ✓ **Weigh puppy**
- ✓ **Take vitals:** Temperature, heart rate, and respiratory rate
- ✓ **Listen to heart and lungs**
- ✓ **Examine eyes, ears, nose and paws**
- ✓ **Examine skin and coat**
- ✓ **Check mouth and teeth**
- ✓ **Look at paws and toes**
- ✓ **Fecal exam**
- ✓ **Microchip**

✓ **Vaccines**

Your puppy may or may not need to be vaccinated during their first vet visit depending on your breeder's vaccination schedule. Bring your puppy's vaccine records from your breeder so the vet knows which vaccines your puppy has already received and when.

✓ **Questions**

Bring a list of the questions you have about caring for your puppy. Your veterinarian can help you choose food and explain options for preventive care. They can also give recommendations on microchipping and spaying or neutering.



Keep your pet safe with AKC Reunite. AKC reunite is available to all pets who are currently microchipped or expected to become microchipped. Once your pet is microchipped, you must enroll the microchip ID with your contact information.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 3 pets will go missing in their lifetime*.

What is a microchip?

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is encoded with a unique ID number that is assigned to your pet. The microchip is inserted between your pet's shoulder blades under a veterinarian's supervision. It is a relatively painless procedure—similar to getting vaccinated.

How do they work?

A microchip is not a tracking device. It can only be “turned on” for a few seconds at a time by a hand-held microchip scanner. This scanner is passed over the area in which a microchip is implanted to read the chip's unique ID number. Veterinarians and shelters have these scanners and use them to help find lost pets.

Recovery Process

If you realize your pet is lost, call AKC Reunite's 24-hour Recovery Hotline. Once your pet is found, AKC Reunite will contact you to reunite you with them!

WWW.AKCREUNITE.ORG

(888) 525-7894

*<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/14/are-you-prepared-for-a-pet-emergency-most-americans-are-not.html>
Source: www.akcreunite.org

Types of Vaccinations

Vaccines

Vaccines protect pets against contagious, potentially fatal diseases. They work by triggering an immune response that prepares the body to fight future infections.

Dog Core Vaccinations

According to the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), these vaccines are considered core vaccines and are recommended for all dogs to protect against diseases that are more serious or potentially fatal. These diseases are found throughout North America and are easily transmitted.

- ✓ Distemper
- ✓ Parvovirus
- ✓ Adenovirus
- ✓ Rabies

These 3 vaccines are often combined into the **DA2PP combo vaccine**.

Dog Noncore Vaccinations

These vaccines are often considered elective based on lifestyle or location. Follow your veterinarian's recommendations for these vaccines.

- ✓ **Bordetella** (Kennel Cough)
- ✓ **Borrelia Burgdorferi** (Lyme Disease)
- ✓ **Leptospirosis**
- ✓ **Canine Influenza Virus**

Top Infectious Diseases

Staying up-to-date on your pup's vaccinations can help ward off preventable diseases and keep your pet healthy. Below is a list of diseases for which vaccines are available.

Canine Influenza (flu)

Canine Influenza is a viral disease that attacks the respiratory tract.

Symptoms: Sneeze, cough, eye/nose discharge, lack of appetite, fever

Spread: Direct contact with dogs or items, inhalation of cough droplets

Treatment: Isolation, possibly antibiotics for severe cases

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can lead to kidney failure.

Symptoms: Lack of appetite, lethargy, increased thirst, vomiting

Spread: Contact with contaminated water or urine

Treatment: Antibiotics, hospitalization for severe cases

Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease is caused by a bacterium that attacks the immune system.

Symptoms: Fever, mild lameness, loss of appetite, lethargy

Spread: Bite by an infected tick

Treatment: Antibiotics, hospitalization for severe cases



The AKC Canine Health Foundation is dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs by funding scientific research and supporting the dissemination of canine health information.

For more information on infectious diseases and other canine health concerns, visit www.akcchf.org

Signs & Symptoms

Dogs may not be able to talk, but they do “tell” us when they are not feeling well. Below is a list of subtle signs and symptoms that may indicate a problem.

Pain

Dogs are very stoic, so it's helpful to understand these vague symptoms which may indicate pain.

- ✓ Limping, panting, or whining
- ✓ Resistance to touch
- ✓ Disinterest in food
- ✓ Laying down
- ✓ Reluctance to get up or go on a walk
- ✓ Protecting a certain body part
- ✓ Unusual behavior such as aggression or hiding

Upset Stomach

An upset stomach can be minor or serious, and can sometimes be accompanied by vomiting or diarrhea. If this occurs, withhold food and water for a short period of time. Then, begin offering small amounts of water and bland diet, like chicken and rice, until your dog is feeling better.

- ✓ Excessive drooling
- ✓ Lethargy
- ✓ Disinterest in food
- ✓ Depression
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Gulping water
- ✓ Panting
- ✓ Eating grass

Ear Problem

Eye and ear problems can progress quickly, so it's best to consult your veterinarian if you have any concerns.

- ✓ Scratching at ears
- ✓ Head shaking
- ✓ Reddening, swelling inside the ear
- ✓ Discharge
- ✓ Rubbing ears
- ✓ Loss of hearing
- ✓ Yeasty or foul odor

Eye Problem

- ✓ Squinting
- ✓ Reddening
- ✓ Tearing
- ✓ Discharge
- ✓ Scratching at eye
- ✓ Loss of vision



Parasite Prevention

Ticks

Ticks are external parasites that latch onto your dog's skin and suck their blood. They are difficult to remove and can cause serious illnesses, like Lyme Disease. Always check dogs after they've been outdoors, especially if they've been in tall grass and wooded areas.

Common signs: Tick on dog, small bump or scabs, rash

Prevention: Topical and oral tick prevention is available. Many products treat both fleas and ticks. Ask your veterinarian what products are best for your pet and your region.

Treatment: Remove the tick with fine-point tweezers. Steadily pull upward and off the skin ensuring that you completely remove the tick. Dispose of the tick by soaking it in rubbing alcohol or flushing it down the toilet. If you are uncomfortable removing the tick or are unsure whether you removed the entire tick, contact your veterinarian for help.



Fleas

Fleas are external parasites who take up residence in your dog's coat. Though merely the size of a pinhead, their bites cause extreme itching. Excessive scratching and chewing can lead to skin infections and wounds. It's important to get ahead of fleas and treat your pet and their environment regularly.

Common signs: Severe scratching and chewing, red bumpy skin, hair loss

Prevention: Oral or topical medications, flea collars, regular grooming, and bathing

Treatment: Call your vet for recommendations on the best treatment including flea combs, shampoos, and single dose oral medication.

Heartworm Disease

Heartworms are internal parasites that attack your dog's heart. They typically spread through mosquito bites which allow larvae to enter the bloodstream. The larvae turn into worms inside the heart. Prevention is imperative! Heartworm disease is very serious and can be fatal if not treated correctly.

Common Signs: Coughing, lethargy, difficulty breathing

Prevention: Monthly; oral heartworm prevention is strongly recommended. You should also get your pet tested annually.

Treatment: If you suspect your dog has heartworm disease, contact your vet immediately. They will give you treatment recommendations which could include oral medications, injections, or hospitalization in severe cases. Do not attempt to treat heartworms with preventive medicine!

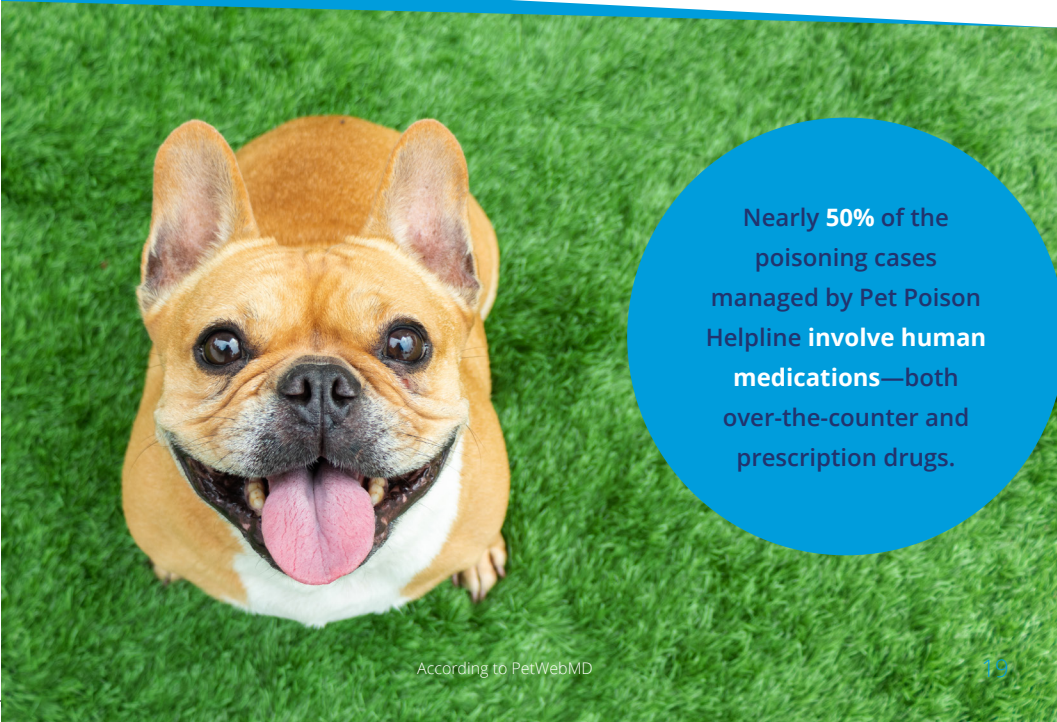
Top 10 Poisons

Depending on the substance, symptoms can include gastrointestinal issues, neurological problems, cardiac or respiratory distress, coma, or even death.

- ① **Prescription Medications** Antidepressants, anticonvulsants, blood pressure heart medications (Atenolol, Enalapril)
- ② **Rodenticides and Insecticides** Rat and mouse poison, bug sprays, snail bait, topical flea tick products (if ingested)
- ③ **Over-the-Counter Medications** Acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil), naproxen (Aleve), as well as some herbal and nutraceuticals
- ④ **Pet Medications** Overdose of pain medications (carprofen, Deramax, Previcox), cardiac and blood pressure medications, diabetes medications (insulin)
- ⑤ **Foods** Alcohol, avocado, macadamia nuts, grapes/raisins, caffeine, onions, and mustard
- ⑥ **Chocolate** Dark and purer forms of chocolate that contain more of the toxic ingredient, theobromine, are more likely to cause severe symptoms
- ⑦ **Xylitol** Artificial sweetener found in many chewing gums, liquid human medications, and some peanut butters
- ⑧ **Household Products** Cleaners, bleach, paint thinner, anti-freeze, pool chemicals, polishes, detergents

- ⑨ **Lawn and Garden Products** Fertilizers, sprays, weed killer
- ⑩ **Plants** Marijuana, Azaleas, rhododendrons, poinsettias, tulips, daffodils, lilies, sago palms, some mushrooms

If you suspect your dog has come in contact with a toxic substance, call your veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline immediately. If your pet is already experiencing symptoms, bring them to the closest 24-hour emergency clinic. Be prepared to describe the type of substance, ingredients, strength (if medication), approximate quantity, and time that the incident occurred.



Nearly **50%** of the poisoning cases managed by Pet Poison Helpline **involve human medications**—both over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

Warm Weather Safety



OUTSIDE °F	INSIDE CAR °F	
	10 min	30 min
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
85°	104°	119°
95°	114°	129°

DID YOU KNOW?

Cracking windows or leaving your car in the shade has **very little** effect on the car's internal temperature.

Hot Car Safety

Temperatures inside a car are higher than outdoor temps. What might feel pleasant outside can be dangerously hot inside a car! High temperatures and dehydration can quickly lead to heatstroke or even death.

Sun Protection

Sunburns aren't just for humans! Limit your dog's sun exposure and apply sunblock to their ears and nose 30 minutes before going outside. Keep in mind that dogs with short hair, white fur, and pink skin are at a higher risk for sunburns.

Hot Paws

Hot pavement can burn your dog's paw pads! Check sidewalks with your hand or foot for 10 seconds. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them! Restrict activity to earlier or later in the day when it's cooler. If you see your dog limping, licking their paws, or if the paws appear damaged, take your dog to your veterinarian for treatment.

Cold Weather Safety

Snow Melt

Steer clear of de-icers, such as rock salt, when walking your dog. They can hurt their paw pads and are toxic to ingest. Make sure to rinse and dry your pup's paws when you get home.

Paws & Snow

Trim the hair between your dog's toes. This will help prevent ice balls from forming. Try rubbing a small amount of petroleum jelly on your dog's paw pads before you go for a walk to help repel the snow.

Cold Car Safety

Never leave your dog alone in the car on cold days. The same way your car heats up in the summer, it gets extremely cold in the winter.

Antifreeze Warning

Avoid spilled antifreeze in driveways. It smells and tastes good to dogs, but it is lethal if ingested. Opt for a pet-friendly antifreeze, which contains a much less toxic chemical and doesn't taste as pleasant to animals.



Dog Care Tips

Taking Temperature



Quick Read
Thermometer



Petroleum
Jelly



Rubbing
Alcohol



Treats

DID YOU KNOW?

A dog's average body temperature is **101°-102.5°F.**

Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Clean the thermometer with rubbing alcohol.

Step 2: Dip the thermometer into petroleum jelly.

Step 3: Lift your dog's tail and slowly insert the thermometer into their rectum about 2-3 inches and wait for reading.

Step 4: Give them a treat for good behavior.

Step 5: Wash thermometer.



Ear Cleaning

Ears should be cleaned at least once a month and more often if your dog is prone to ear problems. Check for dirt, scratches, parasites, discharge, or any unpleasant odor. If these occur, contact your vet. To clean the ears, moisten a cotton ball with ear cleaner and gently wipe out the ears. Don't go deeper than the first knuckle on your finger.

Teeth Cleaning

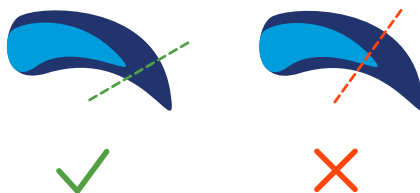
Begin by gently scrubbing the teeth with a finger brush or gauze pad. Later you can graduate to a toothbrush and canine toothpaste. Toothbrushes should be soft, and toothpaste **must** be formulated for a dog's system. Teeth can also be cleaned with a paste made of baking soda and water.

Nail Trims

Start handling your puppy's paws early to get them used to you gently manipulating their nails and toes. During the trimming process, reward your pup with treats. Using dog nail trimmers, clip only the curved part of the nail. If you accidentally hit the quick, put a small amount of antiseptic powder on a gauze pad and gently press it into the bleeding nail for 1 minute.

HOW TO TRIM NAILS

Grasp toe with thumb and forefinger to extend the nail. Clip just the tip of the nail straight across. Avoid clipping past the curve or you will risk hitting the quick.



Pet First Aid Kit

Be prepared in case of an emergency and make your own Pet First Aid Kit. Keep it in your house and bring it on long trips. Check your first aid kit at least once a year to ensure it stays stocked and up-to-date.

Phone numbers Including your vet, local emergency clinics, and the Pet Poison Helpline

Medical records including medications, vaccine history, and allergies

Leash to transport your pet (if your pet is capable of walking)

Towels and/or blanket to keep pets warm and comfortable and to clean up messes

Absorbent gauze pads to control bleeding, clean wounds, or apply topical medications

Cotton balls and swabs for cleaning wounds or applying topical medications

Bandage tape for securing gauze wrap or bandages (ie. cloth tape, bandage tape). *Do NOT use human bandages (eg, Band-Aids®) on pets.

Self-cling bandage wrap to secure bandages (ie. VetWrap or Coflex)

Non-latex disposable gloves to maintain cleanliness for you and your pet

Sterile saline for cleaning wounds

Eye wash to flush foreign material out of eyes

Povidone iodine solution for cleaning wounds

Digital thermometer for taking your dog's temperature. See page 22 for tips.

Petroleum jelly to lubricate the thermometer

Eye dropper or large syringe without needle to give oral treatments or flush wounds

Tweezers to remove foreign objects, like splinters, from skin

Bandage scissors to cut away potential hazards (collar, leash, fabric)

Milk of magnesia or activated charcoal* to absorb poison in the stomach

Hydrogen peroxide (3%)* to induce vomiting

Anti-histamine medication* (Benadryl®) to treat an allergic reaction



*Always consult your veterinarian before administering any oral medications. Get your veterinarian to give you appropriate doses for the size of your dog. Giving the wrong medication or wrong dose can be fatal.

Important Contacts

Pet Poison Helpline

(800) 213-6680

www.petpoisonhelpline.com

\$59/per incident fee paid by credit card

AKC Pet Insurance

(866) 725-2747

www.akcpetinsurance.com

info@akcpetinsurance.com

Veterinarian: _____

Clinic Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Clinic: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Breeder: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pet Information

Important Contacts

Pet's Name: _____

DOB: _____ **Breed:** _____

Color: _____

Medical Conditions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

Special Instructions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____



Scan the QR code, call, or visit us
online to get your **FREE QUOTE** today!



PET INSURANCE

Underwritten by Independence American Insurance Co.

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Since 2002, we've helped pet owners across the country better provide for
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