



## Brooke Townsend, DVM

*Dr. Brooke is a Greensboro native and works at Sedgefield Animal Hospital and Dental Center. A graduate of NC State, she has been practicing veterinary medicine for eleven years. Dr. Brooke enjoys working closely with pet owners to provide all of her patients with the best quality of life and medical care.*

**Q** How can I keep my pet healthy and save money at the same time?

**A** At Sedgefield Animal Hospital, we see each pet as a member of your family. It is our responsibility to treat your pet and offer you the best care possible. We also see it as our responsibility to communicate with you and design the best plan for treatment based on your pet's needs and your financial needs. So what can you do to save money on your pet's health care? **PREVENTATIVE CARE IS KEY!**

We see many pet owners struggling financially to provide care for their pets. Early preventative care can save on your family's budget and will greatly improve the health of your furry family, adding years to their lives. We can ward off many diseases and injuries with a few simple steps:

- **Brush your pet's teeth!** Imagine what your teeth would look like if you didn't brush daily. It's a well-known fact dental disease can cause problems and can affect the kidneys, liver, heart and other vital organs. Regular professional dental cleanings will still be needed but daily brushing will improve your pet's overall oral health.
- **Prevent those pesky parasites!** Generic flea preventatives may have the same active ingredients but they do NOT contain the carrier agents that allow the medication to get into the oil glands so they can be effective for a full month. Generics and some brands found at big retail stores only kill 40-60% of the fleas! Ask us what product would be best for your pet. Many companies offer promotions only through your veterinarian's office.
- **Feed your pet a quality diet!** A leather shoe has the same nutritional makeup as some of the pet foods available on the market. Don't skimp on your pet's nutrition. Labels can be very confusing, so ask us if you have questions about different brands. When looking at the cost of feeding your pet be sure to compare not only the price per pound of food but also the amount per daily feeding. You will be surprised to find that you currently need to feed your pet 5 cups daily of a lower quality food vs. just 3 cups daily of a much higher quality of food. You can actually spend less money monthly, while providing your pet with better nutrition!
- **Don't skip that monthly heartworm pill!** The cost of preventing this deadly disease can be as little as \$6 per month. The treatment to kill adult heartworms once your dog is infected can cost up to \$1,000 to \$1,800 and can cause great damage to your pet's overall health, and if left untreated can be fatal.
- **Spay and Neuter your pet!** Not only are you preventing unwanted births and decreasing pet overpopulation, but spaying and neutering your pet has several health benefits as well. In fact, spaying your female dog/cat before their first heat-cycle can significantly reduce their risk of developing breast cancer.
- **Follow vaccine recommendations!** These do change over time as we

see more or less disease in our area. We tailor the vaccine protocol to each individual pet - always weighing the risks vs. the benefits!

- **Routine grooming is not just for "looks"!** Having your pet groomed often can prevent many problems from occurring. Matted hair, dirty ears and long nails can cause many skin and other health concerns.
- **Don't waste money on supplements and vitamins not recommended by your veterinarian!** If your pet needs skin or joint supplements, ask your family Veterinarian which brands they prefer. Did you know that 80% of supplements sold in some pet stores do not contain what they claim to contain?
- **Take advantage of discounted promotions and wellness lab packages!** At Sedgefield Animal Hospital, with our annual visit, we offer a discounted panel of lab work that includes your pet's heartworm and intestinal parasite screen with additional lab tests to screen for diabetes, kidney disease, and much more. Prevention and early detection are safer and less expensive than the treatment of more advanced diseases. Pets age more rapidly in comparison to people. Working together to identify these changes early, will result in greater success in keeping your companions as healthy as possible for as long as possible.
- **Be "Street Smart"!** Many accidents and injuries we see can be easily avoided. Be sure to keep your dog on a leash when walking. When playing in a fenced in yard make sure the area is clear of sticks and other sharp objects. Don't let your pet eat things they find in the yard or on walks. Avoid letting them drink from standing water. For our feline friends, keep cats 100% indoors if at all possible! Cats that stay inside live years longer and have fewer illnesses.
- **Consider getting your dog or cat Pet Insurance!** Payment methods and savings can vary, but part of being able to provide needed veterinary care, is establishing a pet health insurance plan. Our clients tell us their pet insurance pays for itself over and over.

We understand the need to save money while caring for your pet and the difficulties caused by getting caught unprepared. We want to partner together with you to provide the best quality veterinary care possible. If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to talk to one of our staff to find out more ways to protect your furry friend. Our goal is to give your pet the best care possible without breaking your bank!



**Sedgefield Animal Hospital  
and Dental Center**

Providing medical, surgical and dental care to  
the Piedmont Triad for **OVER 35 yrs.**

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