

PET OWNERSHIP SAVES \$22.7 BILLION IN HEALTH CARE COSTS

Scientific research shows how the human-animal bond positively impacts our mental, physical and social health. Based on this science, a new report finds significant economic benefits associated with pet ownership in the United States.

**\$15
billion**

Better Overall Health, Fewer Physician Office Visits

Looking at a key measure of general health, pet owners are estimated to visit the doctor less than non-pet owners on an annual basis producing a costs savings of \$15 billion.

**\$672
million**

Mental Health Improvements

Children (ages 8-10) in households with a dog have a 9% lower probability of having a clinical diagnosis of anxiety. Dog ownership can therefore be linked to \$672 million in annual mental health care cost savings.

**\$1.8
billion**

Reduced Loneliness

Older Americans with pets are less likely to suffer from health maladies connected to loneliness and social isolation, lowering annual Medicare spending by an estimated \$1.8 billion.

**\$4.5
billion**

Reduced Obesity

Dog owners who regularly walk their dogs have lower levels of obesity, leading to a \$4.5 billion reduction in health care spending.

**\$90.5
million**

Infection Prevention

Pet ownership correlates to a 14% reduction of C. difficile reinfection cases for hospitalized individuals with a treatment cost savings of \$90.47 million.

**\$688
million**

Support for Veterans with PTSD

Overall spending on treatment for PTSD is projected to be \$688 million lower for veterans with service animals and emotional support animals.

ANNUAL HEALTH CARE COST SAVINGS OF PET OWNERSHIP

SAVINGS

Physician Office Visits	\$14,986,493,000
Obesity	\$4,536,476,000
Treatment of C. difficile Infections	\$90,470,000
Mental Health Costs for Anxiety in Children 8-10 Years Old	\$671,711,000
Mental Health Care Costs of Socially Isolated Seniors	\$1,776,146,000
Veteran PTSD Treatments (Emotional Support & Service Animals)	\$688,017,000
Total Identifiable Cost Savings	\$22,749,313,000



The full report, *The Health Care Cost Savings of Pet Ownership*, was made possible by a grant from Banfield Pet Hospital and is available for download at

habri.org/health-care-cost-savings