

Veterinary medicine on a budget

How to manage veterinary cases in practice on a limited budget

In today's economic climate it's recognised that pet owners like many members of the public have to manage their household budget with a careful eye to ensure they make ends meet. Paying the bills, managing the mortgage, watching the weekly shop, cutting back on spending and saving for a rainy day are all part and parcel of daily life. With such demands on the consumer purse, care of their pet can present challenges especially if the pet requires routine preventative veterinary care or is in need of specific veterinary treatment for an illness, injury or ongoing condition.

When clients' budgets are under strain and their pet, who is often considered a member of the family, needs care, client emotions can run high. Vets in practice are often required to bring a range of skills into play from applying their technical knowledge through to managing sensitivities and showing understanding and empathy. Introducing fees and finances into the already complex mix can be fraught with difficulties.

To support vets in practice, BSAVA recently produced a Vet Fees Explainer (<https://www.bsava.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/bsava-explainer-of-veterinary-costs.pdf>) for veterinary staff to share with clients to help them understand vet fees. In addition, to support vets in small animal practice, BSAVA has collated assets in how to manage veterinary cases on a budget for a number of clinical scenarios and conditions. Access to resources is available to BSAVA members.

- *How to... Approach epileptic seizures on a limited budget*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/journals/10.22233/20412495.1220.10>
- *Getting more for no more from your laboratory: Clin Path on a budget*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443699.ch46sec1>
- *Spinal cord disorders on a budget*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443699.ch15sec5>
- *When to test and when to treat?*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443699.ch46sec5>
- *How to get the most from your ophthalmological consultation*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443439.ch14sec2>
- *Investigating chronic diarrhoea on a shoestring*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443439.ch14sec5>
- *Investigating the pruritic dog on a shoestring*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443439.ch14sec3>
- *Working within a budget in first opinion practice*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443439.ch49sec10>
- *Big heart, little budget: managing heart failure on a shoestring budget*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443446.ch12sec6>
- *Paralysis to pain: spinal problems on a budget*
<https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/chapter/10.22233/9781910443446.ch20sec7>

In addition to these resources that support management of clinical cases on a budget, our BSAVA Library collection includes further resources on client communications, how to manage situations if they escalate to require mediation and assets for vets working for charities where the principles of shelter medicine apply. BSAVA members can access resources here <https://www.bsavalibrary.com/content/veterinary-practice-in-a-time-of-budget-constraints>.

And if you think that the current economic climate is a new phenomenon, we can share a thought for those vets and veterinary staff in practice who can remember all of those occasions when financial constraints have loomed large in everyday life in the past, as our BSAVA news article from late 2022 illustrates <https://www.bsava.com/article/discussing-the-cost-of-living-with-professor-ian-ramsey>