

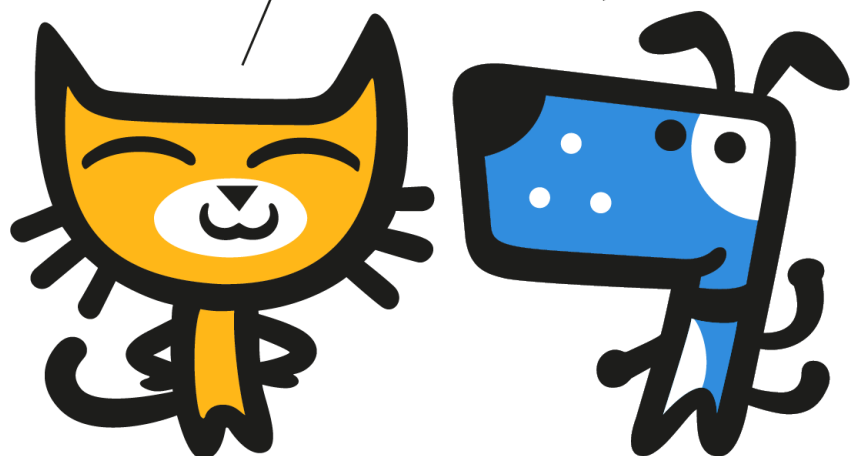
Scratch & Patch

Scratch & Patch Pet Insurance

Bronze, Silver, Gold, Prime, Premier and Premier Plus levels of cover

Here's the small print.
What you're covered for...

...and what you're not!



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Welcome to Scratch & Patch pet insurance. Thank you for choosing to insure your pet(s) with us. We are delighted to bring you and your pet(s) into our community of customers.

The long-term health and happiness of your pet is important. This can be achieved through exercise, feeding them well, providing a loving home and taking care of their routine health needs such as vaccinations and regular check-ups by your vet. Sometimes, pets become ill or have an accident which needs veterinary attention, and this is where pet insurance can be of help from a financial point of view. We provide cover for this in the UK and within the EU (while you are travelling with your pet) as standard.

Our policy also includes other useful sections of cover and a telephone careline for you to use if you want to check something out about your pet's health without needing to go to a vet or if something troubles you outside of normal practice hours.

This policy booklet along with your schedule will provide you with all the information you need to understand exactly what cover is provided, the terms and conditions of your cover as well as how to make a claim, amend your cover or tell us about changes.

At Scratch & Patch our aim is to provide a first-class level of service at all times and we want you to be delighted with this. We will ask for your feedback but if at any time you are not entirely happy please let us know, our contact numbers are included throughout the booklet and our complaints procedure is included on page 24.

We value your opinion and custom and are always looking for ways to improve. We hope that your pet lives a long, happy, and healthy life but if things go wrong, we will be there to help.

Scratch & Patch



Your policy

This is **your policy** wording.

Please read the **policy** together with **your schedule** and the **statement of fact** as these documents together form the legal contract between **you** and the **insurer**. In deciding to accept this insurance and in setting the terms and premium, **we** have relied on the information **you** provided when **you** applied for this insurance. This is shown in the **statement of fact**.

Please read the **schedule** to see which cover **you** have purchased, the limits and **excess(s)** that apply and whether it is in force.

We recommend that **you** take time to check the documents **we** have sent **you** as soon as possible, they contain **your** information, **your pet's** cover details, the **period of insurance** and the premium. All the sections of cover apply to **dogs**. Cats are covered for all sections except section C – third party liability. The level of cover provided under each section is detailed in **your schedule**.

If any of the information is incorrect or the **policy** does not meet **your** needs, please call **our** Customer Service team on **0330 1026839** and they will be able to help **you**. **You** can also call this number if **you** have any questions about **your policy**.

Please ensure that **you** fulfil the obligations set out below in What to do if **you** have a claim, Cancelling **your policy**, Important customer information, Keeping **your policy** up to date, and Conditions applicable to all sections of cover. Not doing so may affect a claim or could result in **your** insurance being invalid.

We agree to provide the cover set out in this **policy** and **your schedule** subject to **you** paying the correct premium and taxes due and complying with the terms and conditions of this **policy**.

We can choose not to offer renewal of **your policy**. If **we** do, **we** will let **you** know before the renewal date so that **you** have time to make any alternative arrangements.

Defined terms

The following words or phrases have the same meaning wherever they appear in this **policy**. Please note, unless specified otherwise, words denoting singular may also include plural and vice versa. These words will appear in **bold** throughout the **policy** from the point they are first defined onwards.

Accident: A sudden, unforeseen, external, and unintended event that causes physical injury to your pet.

Accepted associations: any of the following, Association of British Veterinary Acupuncturists, Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy, British Veterinary Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine Association, Canine Hydrotherapy Association, Institute of Registered Veterinary and Animal Physiotherapists, International Association of Animal Therapists, International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, McTimoney Chiropractic Association, National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists, National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapists, The Society of Osteopaths in Animal Practice.

Alternative treatment: homeopathic or herbal medicine, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, acupuncture, osteopathy, laser **treatment** or chiropractic manipulation to treat **injury** or **illness** which is prescribed by and carried out by a **vet**, or the **treatment** is provided by a veterinary practice employee or a suitably qualified member of an **accepted association**.

Behavioural treatment: treating a change to **your pet's** normal behaviour that is caused by a mental or emotional disorder which could not have been prevented by training and/or spaying/castration and which is carried out by a veterinary practice employee, a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CCAB) or a member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC) or Canine and Feline Behaviour Association (CFBA) and is considered necessary by a qualified **vet**.

Bilateral conditions: A **bilateral condition** is a condition that can affect both sides of **your pet's** body, such as the eyes, ears, knees, or cruciate ligaments, whether it occurs at the same time or separately.

When applying benefit limits, **excesses**, or exclusions, **bilateral conditions** are treated as one **condition**, not separate claims for each side.

If **your pet** receives treatment for a **bilateral condition** within 24 months of previously being treated for the same **condition** on the other side, the new **treatment** will be linked as a continuation of the original **condition**. All relevant policy terms, limits, and **excesses** will apply.

Example: **Your dog** has a cruciate ligament injury in the left knee and is treated under your policy. 18 months later, **your dog** develops a cruciate ligament **injury** in the right knee. This is considered a continuation of the original **bilateral condition**, so the same **policy** limits, **excess**, and inner limits apply.

For a list of the most common bilateral conditions, please visit:

<https://scratchandpatch.co.uk/exclusions/>

This list is not exhaustive.

Clinical sign(s): Any change(s) in **your pet's** normal healthy state, appearance, its bodily functions or demeanour, whether observed visually, through diagnostic testing, or otherwise.

Condition: Any manifestation of an **illness** having the same diagnostic classification or resulting from the same disease process regardless of the number of incidents or areas of **your pet's** body having been affected. Also relates to any **injury** sustained during or resulting from any one single **accident**.

Dental treatment: Treatment to the teeth, mouth, or gums of **your pet** required solely as a direct result of an **accident** or **injury**.

Dog: the **dog(s)** named on **your schedule**.

Elective treatment, diagnostic or procedure: Any **treatment**, diagnostic or procedure **you** request, which the **vet** confirms is not necessary.

Excess (Compulsory): The amount **you** have to pay towards the cost of **your pet's treatment you** are claiming for. This applies to each **injury** or **illness** claim that is not related to any other **condition** treated during the same **period of insurance**. If **you** submit further claims for the **treatment your pet** receives resulting from the same **condition**, but in a separate **period of insurance**, a new fixed **excess** will be applicable from the first claim for each **injury** or **illness** in all subsequent **period of insurance**.

Excess (Voluntary/Co-payment): The **voluntary excess**, also referred to as a **co-payment**, is the percentage amount **you** are required to pay towards the costs of **veterinary fees** in addition to the compulsory **excess**. The **voluntary excess / co-payment** is calculated from the balance remaining after the **compulsory excess** has been deducted. Throughout this **policy**, "**voluntary excess**" and "**co-payment**" mean the same thing.

EU: – European Union

EU countries: the member states of the European Union

Family: **Your** husband, wife, civil partner, partner, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters.

Financial Conduct Authority: The Financial Conduct Authority is the independent watchdog that regulates financial services.

Holiday: a vacation or pleasure trip including at least one overnight stay outside the **UK** which commences and ends in the **UK**.

Home: The place in the **UK** where **you** usually live, and which is shown in **your schedule**.

Illness: Any change(s) to a normal healthy state, disease, medical condition, or internal malfunction of the body that is not caused by an **accident**, including acute **conditions** such as kidney injury, liver disease, infections, or other sudden-onset medical **conditions** which is not caused by an **accident**.

Injury: Physical trauma or damage caused immediately by an accidental cause, such as a fall, collision or other sudden external event.

Insurer: This pet insurance is arranged by Scratch & Patch and underwritten by Stonebridge International Insurance Ltd. Scratch & Patch is a trading name of Only Pets Cover Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority: FRN 840293
Stonebridge International Insurance Ltd
Registered Office: 14th Floor, 33 Cavendish Square, London, United Kingdom, W1G 0PW. Company number: **03321734**. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Firm Reference Number: 203188

Period of insurance: the period of time during which cover will be provided by **us** as stated in **your schedule**.

Pre-existing condition: Any **injury** or **illness** that:

- a. Happened or first showed **clinical signs**,
 - b. Has been identified or investigated by a **vet**,
 - c. Has the same diagnosis or **clinical signs** as an **injury**, **illness**, or **clinical sign your pet** had, or
 - d. Is caused by, relates to, or results from an **injury**, **illness**, or **clinical sign your pet** had,
- or is otherwise known to you before the start date of your pet's **first period of insurance** (inception), or before the date the cover level on **your policy** was increased, no matter where on **your pet's** body the **injury**, **illness** or are noticed or occur.

However, a **condition** will not be considered **pre-existing** if your pet has been free from any **clinical signs**, symptoms, **treatment**, medication, or veterinary advice relating to that **condition** for a continuous period of at least 24 months immediately before:

- * the start date of your pet's **first period of insurance**, or
- * the date your cover level was increased
- * the date of **treatment**

Pet: the **dog(s)** and / or cat(s) named on **your schedule**.

Policy: this insurance wording.

Policy documents: the **policy**, **schedule**, and **statement of fact**. All to be read as one.

Scratch & Patch: a trading name of Only Pets Cover Limited.

Schedule: the document which contains important information about **you**, **your pet**, and **your policy** cover. It forms part of **your policy documents** which make up **your** legal contract with **us**.

Statement of fact: the information provided when applying for this insurance and which **you** have confirmed to be correct.

Treatment: Any examination, consultation, advice, test, x-ray, slides, ultrasound, MRI, CT scan, specialist diagnostic testing or other diagnostic procedure, surgery, aftercare, or nursing carried out by a **vet**, veterinary nurse, or veterinary practice employee under the supervision of a **vet**, in accordance with RCVS accepted practice standards, and any medication legally prescribed by a **vet**.

UK: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Vet: A qualified veterinary surgeon currently registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), providing **treatment** in accordance with RCVS accepted practice standards.

Veterinary fees: The reasonable, necessary, and essential amount normally charged by a **vet** to provide **treatment** in line with RCVS accepted practice standards. Every claim will be reviewed by **our pet** claims handler and compared to charges for the same or similar **treatment** locally to ensure that fees meet this requirement. **We** allow a maximum mark-up of 100% on the manufacturer's or wholesaler's price of veterinary medicines, which includes any dispensing fees, less VAT.

We/Us/Our: Scratch & Patch on behalf of the **insurer**.

You, your: the person named on **your schedule** as the policyholder

What to do if you have a claim

The easiest and quickest way to submit **your** claim is via our online claims portal:

Customer claims:

<https://www.scratchandpatch/enol-form-customer>

Vet claims:

<https://www.scratchandpatch/enol-form-vet>

All required supporting documentation can also be uploaded via the online claims portal.

You can also notify us of a claim or request assistance in the following ways:

Telephone: 0330 102 6839

Email: claims@scratchandpatch.co.uk

Website: www.scratchandpatch.co.uk

Please note: Postal submissions are no longer accepted.

Please remember that all claims must relate to **treatment** that has been arranged promptly in line with your responsibilities as a **pet** owner, as outlined in this section.

For claims involving high-cost **treatment**, **we** may review the claim to ensure the **treatment** is reasonable, necessary, and essential. This may include consulting an independent veterinary professional. The review is not intended to override **your vet's** clinical judgement but to confirm that the **treatment** claimed for is appropriate and cost-effective, helping to protect **you** from unnecessary or excessive costs while maintaining fair and transparent claims handling.

Please note that **we** do not currently offer pre-authorisation of any claim. All claims are assessed once full claim information, including the full medical history and accompanying invoice has been received. This ensures that claims are assessed fairly and consistently based on the veterinary evidence provided. Treatment decisions remain with **you** and **your vet**, rather than being pre-approved by the insurer.

Continuation claims for ongoing **conditions** are handled in the same way, taking into account previous claims, applicable limits, inner limits, and **excesses**.

Your claim should be notified to **us** within 60 days of any incident. **We** will not pay any claims for **vet** bills that are: 12 months old or older when they are sent to **us**, Or; any unclaimed items displayed on an invoice which are 12 months or older than the date the claim is received.

If **we** request it, the attending **vet**, or **your** usual or previous **vet** must at **your** expense, provide **us** with all information about **your pet**, including its full clinical and medical history and / or the **treatment** provided.

You and **your vet**, or other institution or person requested, should complete the claim form without charge before it is sent to **us**. **We** cannot process any incomplete claims and will request any outstanding information before proceeding with any claim.

Where requested by **us**, **you** will need to provide an original receipt, certificate or other form of proof issued to **you**, at **your home** address, showing **your pet's** details, if relevant and providing itemised breakdown of the cost incurred and dates as appropriate. These are to be provided at **your** own cost.

Should **you** submit a claim without the required supporting documentation and fail to respond to any correspondence requesting this, **your** claim may be closed after 28 days. **You** must provide all necessary documentation in order for **your** claim to be assessed.

If **your pet** dies or is euthanised and **you** are making a claim under **your policy**, **you** must arrange at **your** expense for **your vet** to provide written confirmation, stating the cause and date. If euthanised, **we** will require **your vets** written confirmation stating that this was necessary for humane reasons and to stop incurable suffering.

Cancelling your policy

This **policy** is an annual (12 month) contract with the option to pay by monthly instalments.

You can cancel **your policy** at any time by calling **us** on 0330 102 6839.

Cancelling within 14 days If **you** cancel within 14 days of the start date of the first **period of insurance**, or the date you receive **your policy** documents (whichever is later), and no claims have been made, the insurer will refund any premium paid. **We** will charge **you** an administration fee as outlined in our Terms of Business.

Cancelling after 14 days If **you** cancel at any other time and no claims have been made against **you** or **your pet**; the insurer will refund **your** premium less a pro-rata charge for **your** time on cover. **We** will also charge an administration fee.

If a claim has been made, submitted, or is pending:

If **we've** paid a claim, or a claim is submitted or pending, **you** will need to pay the full annual premium before cancelling or removing a **pet** from the **policy**.

If the premium is paid annually, **we** will not refund any premium annually, no refund will be given.

If the premium is paid by the monthly instalments option, the full annual premium will become due. **You** may either continue paying monthly instalments or pay the remaining balance in full.

Where possible, any remaining premium may be deducted from a claim settlement.

If **you** need to claim for something that happened before **your** policy was cancelled, the full annual premium will be payable before **we** can pay **your** claim.

If your pet passes away:

If **your pet** passes away and **you** make a valid claim for their death:

If **you** have been insured with us for less than 12 months, the standard cancellation terms above will apply.

If **you** have been insured with us for 12 months or more, **we** will waive any remaining premium for that **policy** year for that **pet** as a loyalty benefit.

This benefit applies once per **pet** and does not extend to other **pets** on the **policy**.

Any refund or waiver applies only to the period after the **pet's** death.

Important information: Any refunds or waived premiums will be paid to the person who arranged the policy.

This section should be read together with the Claims and Premiums sections for full details on how payments are handled. The **insurer** may cancel this **policy** by sending **you** 30 days' notice by recorded post to **your** correspondence address shown in the **schedule**. The **insurer** will only do this for a valid reason. The **insurer** will return any premium **you** have paid for any **period of insurance** remaining.

If **you** pay the premium in instalments and an instalment remains unpaid 15 days after the due date, **we** may cancel this **policy**. In this event, the **period of insurance** will equate to the period for which premium instalments have been paid by **you**. Before **we** cancel **your policy**, **we** will write to **you** in order to give **you** the opportunity to pay any premium due to **us**.

If **your policy** is cancelled or comes to an end for any reason, all cover for **your pet** will stop on the date the **policy** is cancelled/ends and no further claims will be paid.

Important Customer Information

Renewal

Your policy runs for a year at a time.

Each year, **we** reserve the right to amend the premium, **excess** and/or **policy** benefits, terms and conditions or not offer renewal. In doing this **we** will take into account the information **we** have about **your policy**, **your pet's** medical history, claims made and expected future **treatment** and claims costs. In general, premiums increase with the age of **your pet** and if claims have been made.

We regularly review **our** cover limits and applicable inner limits for all of **our** policies to ensure they remain fair and maintain consideration to the relative changes in veterinary **treatment** costs. Therefore, **you** may notice some changes from time to time which will be clearly shown within your renewal schedule and **policy** documents.

Please ensure that **you** review **your policy** documents in full to ensure the cover provided meets **your** needs.

Should **we** decide to offer **you** a renewal of **your policy**, **we** will issue **your** renewal invitation and documents at least 21 days prior to **your** renewal date, so that **you** can make an informed decision about **your policy** and let **us** know if **you** do not want to renew. These will be sent to the email address **you** have provided to **us** (unless another method of communication has been requested).

Your insurance contract may automatically renew at the end of **your period of insurance**, where **we** will use the information and payment details **you** originally supplied. If **you** pay by Direct Debit, **we** will renew the **policy** automatically and continue collecting premiums unless **you** notify **us** that **you** wish to cancel. For payments by credit or debit card, **you** must submit a further payment if **you** wish to renew the **policy**. **You** will have 14 days to cancel the **policy** after the renewal date and receive a refund of any premiums paid for the new **period of insurance**.

You should take reasonable care to inform **us** of any changes since the **policy** started or was last renewed.

If **you** pay premium by instalments and have received a default notice in **your policy** term, **we** may not offer the monthly payment option when **you** are due to renew. If **we** cannot collect **your** first Direct Debit when **your policy** has renewed, **we** will assume **you** prefer to not continue **your** insurance and **we** will cancel **your policy** from **your** renewal date.

Renewal and Direct Debit Payments

When **your policy** renews, the first direct debit payment for the renewed **policy** must be collected within 14 days of the renewal date.

If **your** usual direct debit collection date is close to the renewal date, it is possible that two payments may be taken in a short period. This is normal and intentional to ensure **your policy** remains active from the renewal date.

If **you** have any questions or notice what **you** believe to be an error, please contact us:

Telephone: 0330 102 6839

Email: admin@scratchandpatch.co.uk

Electronic documents

Your policy documents, **schedule** and **statement of fact** are available online and will be emailed to **you** to the email address **you** have provided to **us**. Therefore, **you** must give **us** a valid email address and keep **us** informed if this changes. However, communication will continue to be maintained via **your** chosen method.

Giving us all the facts

When asked by **us**, if **you** do not reveal all relevant facts to **us** **your** insurance may not be valid and may not protect **you** if **you** need to make a claim. This duty applies at application stage, at renewal and during the **period of insurance** of **your policy**.

Occasionally, **we** are deliberately or recklessly given false information. If this happens, **we** will treat this insurance as if it never existed and decline all claims.

If **you** acted carelessly when giving **us** **your** information several things could happen:

1. If **we** provided insurance cover that **we** would not otherwise have offered, **we** will treat this insurance as if it had never existed. If this happens, **we** will give **you** back **your** premium.
2. If **we** would have insured **you** on different terms, **we** will amend this insurance retrospectively and apply these amended terms to the claim.
3. If **we** would have charged **you** more premium, **we** will proportionately reduce the amount of any claim payment.

If **we** do any of the above, **we** will write to **you** explaining why this is happening. If **you** disagree with what **we** are doing, please tell **us**. If **you** are still not satisfied, **you** may ask the Financial Ombudsman Service to review **your** case without affecting **your** legal rights.

Non-payment of premium

You must pay the premium on the dates agreed for this **policy** to remain in force. If **you** do not pay the premium on the due date, **you** have 15 (fifteen) days from the date of the default to contact **us** to organise payment. If **we** do not receive payment **your policy** will be cancelled from the default date and all cover and benefits will stop on this date. If **you** have made a claim the full annual premium will become due, including if your pet passes away. *Please refer to the cancellation section on page 7 for full details.*

Changing cover level

Upgrading your cover

If you increase your cover to a higher level, the higher level will only apply to any injury or illness that first shows clinical signs after the date your cover level changes.

The higher level of cover will not apply to any pre-existing condition — unless your pet has been free from any clinical signs, symptoms, treatment, medication, or veterinary advice relating to that condition for a continuous period of at least 24 months immediately before the transfer date.

Downgrading your cover

If **you** reduce **your** cover to a lower level, the lower amounts will apply to all claims from the date **your** cover is changed onwards, including claims that are already being made.

Fraud

You must be honest and truthful in **your** dealings with **us**, and the **insurer**, at all times. If **you** or anyone acting on **your** behalf attempts to deceive **us** or knowingly makes a false claim, the **insurer** has the right to cancel **your policy**, refuse claims and keep any premium paid. **We** may recover from **you** any costs **we** have incurred, including the costs of investigating the claim. **We** will not pay a claim which is in any way fraudulent, false, or exaggerated. **We** will also not deal with any claims following discovery of this behaviour regardless of when the claims occurred. In addition, **we** have the right to share details of this behaviour with other organisations to prevent further fraud. **We** may also involve the relevant authorities who are empowered to bring criminal proceedings.

Language

All communication between **you**, the **insurer** and **us** in relation to this **policy** will be in English.

Governing Law and Courts

This contract will be governed by English law, and **you** and the **insurer** agree to submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

Assignment

You cannot transfer **your** interest in this **policy** to anyone else without the **insurer's** written permission.

Sanctions

The **insurer** will not provide any cover or be liable to provide any indemnity, payment or other benefit under this **policy** where doing so would breach any prohibition or restriction imposed by law or regulation.

Rights of Third Parties

It is not intended by **you** or the **insurer** that any term in this agreement is enforceable pursuant to the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 or any amendments to the Act or replacement legislation. Keeping **your policy** up to date.

Changes which may affect your cover

As some changes will affect **your** cover, **you** should tell **us** as soon as possible about any change to the details **you** have previously declared on **your statement of fact**, for example but not limited to:

- **you** no longer own the **pet**.
- **you** change address or move outside the **UK**.
- **you** intend to use **your pet** for guarding, breeding, or financial gain.
- **your pet** is neutered or spayed.
- **your pets'** health changes.
- **your pets'** behaviour changes or there are complaints about its behaviour.
- **your pet** no longer lives with **you**.

If **you** do not tell **us** about these changes it may affect any claim **you** make or could result in **your policy** being invalid.

As a result of a change **we** may either decline to continue with the insurance or accept the change to **your policy**. If **we** accept the change this may be on the same terms as before or lead to a change of terms and conditions, an extra premium being charged or a refund of **your** premium.

We will also charge **you** an administration fee.

Further information is provided in **our** Terms of Business.

Discussing Your Policy or Claim with Others

We are committed to protecting **your** personal information in line with Data Protection legislation (GDPR). **We** will only discuss **your policy** or claims with someone other than the policyholder if we have **your** explicit consent or authorisation. If **you** wish for **us** to discuss **your** policy or claim with a family member, friend, or veterinary practice on **your** behalf, **you** can provide consent by:

Giving authorisation over the phone and providing **your** password or other agreed security information; or
Providing written consent or authorisation via email or through **our** website.

Without such consent or authorisation, **we** cannot share details of **your policy** or claim with any third party.

Section A – Veterinary fees and alternative treatment

All amounts are for each **pet** insured.
Cover is provided in the **UK** and in the **EU** when you are travelling with **your pet**.

Bronze

“Each **injury**” means that any **injury(ies)** suffered or resulting from the same **accident**, irrespective of the number of areas of **your pet’s** body affected, will be considered by **us** to be one **injury**.

All other levels of cover

“Each **injury** or **illness**” means that any **injury(ies)** suffered or resulting from the same **accident**, or any symptom(s) of an **illness** which has the same **clinical signs**, the same diagnostic classification or that results from the same disease process, irrespective of the number of phases, episodes or areas of **your pet’s** body affected will be considered by **us** to be one **injury** or **illness**.

What is covered

Veterinary Fees

Bronze

The **insurer** will pay the cost of **veterinary fees** for the **treatment your pet** has received in the **UK** or in **EU** countries to treat **injury** only, up to the maximum limits as set out within **your schedule**.

All other levels of cover

The **insurer will pay the cost of** veterinary fees **for the treatment your pet has received in the UK or in EU** countries **to treat injury and illness, up to the maximum limits as set out within your schedule.**

Inner Limits: Any claim under the below stated inner limits is included within the **veterinary fees** allowance **you** have selected and is not separate or additional to the **veterinary fees** benefit limit. The **insurer** will pay up to the inner limit amounts stated in **your schedule** for:

- Cruciate ligament damage **treatment** including all associated costs;
- Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) **treatment** including all associated costs;
- MRI / CT Scan or any other specialist diagnostic testing and the cost of general anaesthesia, sedation, medications, hospital charges, or interpretation fees;
- **Alternative treatment;**
- **Dental treatment for your pet’s** teeth, mouth, or gums directly resulting from an **accident** or **injury**.
- Diet food prescribed by a **vet** to dissolve bladder stones or crystals in urine;
- **Behavioural treatment;**

in each **period of insurance**.

Please note for all claims involving cruciate(s) **treatment**, should a CT or MRI scan, or any other specialist diagnostic testing be included, those costs will contribute towards the cruciate ligament inner benefit limit only. This is a total limit and not separate for each scan or diagnostic procedure. The most the **insurer** will pay in any **period of insurance** under this section is up to the amount shown on **your schedule** for **veterinary fees**. If this limit is reached in a **period of insurance**, the **insurer** will not make any more payments under this section until **your policy** is renewed.

Bronze

The most the insurer will pay for each **injury** is up to the amount shown on **your schedule** for **veterinary fees** or for 12 months from the date of the first **treatment**, whichever happens first.

Silver

The most the **insurer** will pay for each **injury** or **illness** is up to the amount shown on **your schedule** for **veterinary fees** or for 12 months from the date of the first **treatment**, whichever happens first.

Gold

The most the **insurer** will pay for each **injury** or **illness** is up to the amount shown on **your schedule** for **veterinary fees**.

Prime, Premier and Premier Plus

The most the **insurer** will pay is up to the total annual amount shown on **your schedule** for **veterinary fees**. This total amount is inclusive of all **injuries** and **illness** within the **policy** year. This annual amount is reinstated at the beginning of each **period of insurance** based on **your** renewal invitation. If **your policy** is not renewed all cover stops at the end of the most recent **period of insurance**. Once the cover limit has been reached, the **insurer** will not make any more payments under this section until your policy is renewed. If **your policy** is not renewed all cover stops at the end of the most recent **period of insurance**.

What is not covered

Veterinary Fees

The **insurer** will not cover the following:

Bronze only

1. The cost of any **treatment** or claims for **illness**.
2. MRI / CT Scan or any other specialist diagnostic testing and the cost of general anaesthesia, sedation, medications, hospital charges, or interpretation fees;
3. The cost of any diet food.

All levels of cover

1. The **compulsory excess** and any **voluntary excess** that may apply as shown in **your schedule** for each new **injury** or **illness** in the **period of insurance**.
2. The cost of any **treatment** or claim for a **pre-existing condition**, unless **your pet** has been free from any **clinical signs**, symptoms, **treatment**, medication, or veterinary advice relating to that **condition** for a continuous period of at least 24 months immediately before the start date of **your** insurance or the date **your** cover level was increased.
3. Any claim arising from a malicious or intentional act, any **injury** purposely caused, or as a result of negligence by **you**, any member of **your** family or anyone else residing at the address where the animal is kept.
4. The cost of routine examinations, nail clipping, bathing, de-matting, grooming, spaying, castration, or retained/undescended testicles (cryptorchidism).
5. Any treatment or surgery relating to pyometra.
Pyometra is an infection inside the womb with unneutered females being most at risk. Pyometra can lead to blood poisoning, kidney failure, peritonitis and even death.
6. Preventable conditions: Any **illness**, **injury**, or **condition** that could reasonably have been prevented by **treatment** normally recommended by a **Vet**, including vaccinations or standard preventative measures. Examples: Pyometra, which could have been prevented if **your pet** had been spayed. Infectious diseases preventable by vaccination, such as parvovirus, distemper, or feline leukaemia.
7. The cost of **treatment** to prevent **injury** or **illness**.

8. The cost of elective treatment, diagnostic or procedure or any **treatment** that **you** choose to have carried out that is not directly related to an **injury** or **illness**, including any complications that result from this.
9. The cost of any **treatment** in connection with breeding and any complications of breeding, pregnancy, giving birth or rearing puppies or kittens.
10. The cost of **treatment** in connection with false pregnancy if **your pet** has received **treatment** for two or more episodes of false pregnancy.
11. The cost of any vaccinations, flea tick or worming prevention or **treatment** and the cost of general health improvers.
12. The cost of a house call unless a **vet** confirms that **your pet** is suffering from a serious **injury** or **illness** and that moving **your pet** would either endanger its life or significantly worsen the serious **injury** or **illness**.
13. The extra costs for treating **your pet** outside usual surgery hours, unless a **vet** confirms that an emergency consultation is necessary.
14. If **your pet** needs to be treated by any referral, second opinion or specialist **vet**, **your** usual **vet** will let **you** know which referral **vet** **you** should go to. However, the maximum amount **we** will pay towards reasonable and necessary referral/specialist **vet** consultation fee is as stated within **your policy schedule**. This does not include any **treatment** that may be required.
15. The cost of hospitalisation and any associated **treatment**, unless a **vet** confirms **your pet** must be hospitalised for essential **treatment**.
16. The cost of buying or hiring equipment or machinery or any form of housing, including cages.
17. The cost of transplant surgery including pre- and post-operative care.
18. The cost of prosthesis, including any veterinary **treatment** needed to fit the prosthesis, other than the cost of hip, knee and / or elbow replacement(s).
19. The cost of stem-cell or gene therapy.
20. The costs charged by **your vet** relating to administration duties including but not limited to: completing the claim form, dispensing fees, providing a prescription, fees for referring to a specialist **vet**, referral fees, x-ray referral fees, late payment fees.
21. The cost of surgical items which can be used more than once.
22. The cost of cremation, and disposal, including post-mortem examination costs, coffins, and caskets.
23. The cost of pheromone products, including DAP diffusers and Feliway and / or similar feline facial pheromone products used in either a spray or an electrical diffuser format and any general health enhancers
24. The cost of **dental** or gum **treatment** that is not caused by an **accident** or **injury**, including **treatment** for: Routine, preventative, or cosmetic purposes, such as scaling and polishing. Illness or disease affecting the teeth, gums, or mouth.
25. The cost of any diet food not specifically covered, any obesity food, supplements, or pro-biotics.
26. The cost of diet foods allowed once bladder stones or crystals are dissolved.
27. Any **treatment** costs incurred after the limit shown on **your schedule** is reached in a **period of insurance**.
28. Any **treatment** costs incurred after the **period of insurance** has ended unless **you** and the **insurer** have agreed to a further **period of insurance**.
29. Anything detailed in the general exclusions

Bronze

Any **treatment** costs for each **injury** incurred after the limit shown on **your schedule** is reached or more than 12 months after the first date of **treatment** whichever happens first.

The cost of any medication prescribed to be used more than 12 months after the first date of **treatment** for each **injury**.

Silver

Any **treatment** costs for each **injury** or **illness** incurred after the limit shown on **your schedule** is reached or more than 12 months after the first date of **treatment** whichever happens first.

The cost of any medication prescribed to be used more than 12 months after the first date of **treatment** for each **injury** or **illness**.

Gold, Prime, Premier and Premier Plus

Any **treatment** costs for each **injury** or **illness** incurred after the limit shown on **your schedule** is reached.

Under Excess Claims

There will sometimes be occasions where the **treatment** your pet has received will fall below the **excess(s)** applicable to **your policy**. If the amount you are claiming is lower than **your policy excess** (and **co-payment**, if you have chosen this as part of **your policy**), we can still process **your** claim, but we will not be able to make a payment.

However, the cost of the first **treatment** and/or submitted claim, less any applicable deductions (such as inner limits), will count towards **your excess** for the same **condition** within the same **policy** year. This means that if **you** make a continuation/subsequent claim for the same **condition** later in the **policy** year, the initial claim amount will count towards any remaining **excess** you need to pay.

What is a Continuation Claim?

A continuation claim is a subsequent claim for the same **condition** as a previous claim, made within the same **policy** year.

For example, if your pet receives **treatment** for an **injury** or **illness**, and later needs additional **treatment** for the same **condition**, this is considered a continuation claim.

The cost of the first claim will count towards any **excess**, **co-payment** or inner limits that apply to the same **condition**.

Any remaining **excess** (s), **co-payment** and **policy** limits will then apply to the continuation claim.

Section B – Death from accident, illness and euthanasia

What is covered

Bronze

The Bronze plan does not include death from illness.

The **insurer** will pay a percentage of the purchase or donation price **you paid** for **your pet** if it dies as a result of an **accident** in the **period of insurance**.

Silver, Gold, Prime, Premier and Premier Plus

The **insurer** will pay a percentage of the purchase or donation price **you paid** for **your pet** if it dies as a result of an **accident** or **illness** in the **period of insurance**.

Death by accident or illness

The **insurer** will pay a percentage of the purchase or donation price **you paid** for **your pet** if it dies or is put to sleep (euthanised) by a **vet** as a result of an **accident** or **illness** in the **period of insurance**. Please note, euthanasia is not covered under the Bronze, Silver or Gold levels of cover.

If **you** are unable to provide proof of what **you** paid or donated, the **insurer** will pay the percentage based on an initial value of £75 for cats or £150 for **dogs**, or the amount **you** stated in **your** original application and included in the **statement of fact**, whichever is the lesser. Proof of purchase can be in the following forms:

- Purchase receipt/invoice from where **your pet** was bought. This needs to be dated, signed by both parties, and show the full purchase amount paid
- Rescue centre documents showing the amount paid/donated to obtain ownership
- Communication trails/ screen shots confirming the price and purchasing of **your pet**
- Bank statement showing a transfer or cash withdrawal which match the purchase date, for the specified value of purchase/donation

The percentage payment in all cases will be based on the age of **your pet** at the date of death using the **pets** date of birth on **your schedule** and will be calculated follows:

Age at date your pet dies or is euthanised*	Percentage payment
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Up to one year	100%
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One to two years	75%
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Three to four years	50%
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Five to six years	25%
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Seven years and over	10%
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The most the **insurer** will pay is the amount shown on **your schedule**.

Euthanasia

Bronze, Silver and Gold: Euthanasia is excluded from cover

Prime, Premier and Premier Plus: The **insurer** will pay the reasonable and necessary cost of a **vet** putting **your pet** to sleep where this is needed for humane reasons and to stop incurable suffering.

The most the **insurer** will pay is up to the amount shown on **your schedule**.

Following the death of your pet, your policy does not automatically end, but our normal cancellation policy applies.. Please refer to the cancellation information on page 7 for full details.

What is not covered

The **insurer** will not cover the following:

1. **Dogs** aged 8 years and over at the date of death or being euthanised.
2. Cats aged 10 years and over at the date of death or being euthanised.
3. Death as a result of **illness** under the Bronze level of **cover**
4. Death as a result of breeding, pregnancy or giving birth.
5. The cost of cremation and disposal, including post-mortem examination costs, coffins, and caskets.
6. Anything detailed in the general exclusions.

Section C – Third party liability

All amounts are for each **dog** insured.

This section does not apply to cats.

Cover is provided in the **UK**.

What is covered

The **insurer** will pay damages and legal costs to others which **you** become legally liable to pay if **your dog**, causes accidental death or injury to a person or accidental loss or damage to their property.

If someone who is not a member of **your family** is looking after **your dog** when the injury or damage happens, the **insurer** will still pay as long as **you** asked them to look after **your dog**, **you** did not agree to pay them to look after **your dog** and the death, injury, loss or damage was not to them or their property. The definition of **you** in this section is extended to cover this situation.

The most the **insurer** will pay for any claim or series of claims arising from any one event occurring during the **period of insurance** is shown on **your schedule**.

What is not covered

The **insurer** will not cover the following:

1. Any claim where **you** are insured under any other insurance policy that covers the same loss unless that cover has been exhausted.
2. The **excess** shown in **your schedule**.
3. The cost of defending **you** if the **insurer** has not agreed to the amount in writing beforehand.
4. **Your** liability arising out of any contract that **you** have entered into unless liability would exist without the contract.
5. Any claim which involves **your** employment, profession, occupation, or business or happens at **your** workplace, including **your home** when being used as a workplace.

6. Any claim which results from **your dog** being used for any trade, profession, or business.
7. **Your** liability to any person claiming damages and compensation that lives with **you** at **your home**, is a member of **your family**, is employed by **you**, or was looking after **your dog** with **your** permission.
8. Any liability for loss or damage to property which belongs to, or is in the care of **you**, a member of **your family**, any person who lives with **you** or is employed by **you**.
9. Any liability where **you** have not followed advice given to **you** by previous owners of **your dog** or any re-homing organisation about **your dog's** behavioural traits.
10. Claims as a result of **your dog's** interaction with or attacking other animals.
11. Any fines, penalties, punitive, exemplary, aggravated, liquidated and multiple damages or breach of quarantine restrictions or import or export regulations.
12. Any claim or other proceedings lodged or prosecuted outside the **UK**.
13. Anything detailed in the general exclusions.

Special conditions relating to third party liability claims

You must notify **us**, as soon as possible, after **you** become aware that **your pet** is involved in an incident which may give rise to a third-party liability claim.

You must not admit responsibility, agree to pay any claim, or negotiate with any persons following an incident or incur any cost at all without **our** express written agreement.

If **you** receive any correspondence, writ, summons or any other legal document from or on behalf of a third party **you** must not answer any of these, but they should be forwarded to **us** as soon as possible.

You agree to the **insurer** taking charge of **your** claim and allow the **insurer** to prosecute, defend, settle it on terms the **insurer** is advised are reasonable in **your** name for the **insurer's** benefit.

You must provide the **insurer** with all and any information **we** request in relation to the claim including details of **your dog's** medical and behavioural history, history of ownership and details of any other insurance policies that might contribute towards compensating the claimant.

You agree to help **us** find out about all the circumstances of any incident leading to a claim, provide written statements and go to court if the **insurer** needs **you** to.

Section D – Loss and recovery of your pet

All amounts are for each **pet** insured.
Cover is provided in the **UK**.

What is covered

The **insurer** will pay a percentage of the purchase or donation price **you paid** for **your pet** if it goes missing from **your home** due to straying or theft in the **period of insurance** and is not found within 60 days from the date it goes missing.

If **you** are unable to provide proof of what **you** paid or donated, the **insurer** will pay the percentage based on an initial value of £75 for cats or £150 for **dogs** or the amount **you** stated in **your** original application and included in the **statement of fact** whichever is the lesser. Proof of purchase can be in the following forms:

- Purchase receipt/invoice from where **your pet** was bought. This needs to be dated, signed by both parties, and show the full purchase amount paid
- Rescue centre documents showing the amount paid/donated to obtain ownership
- Communication trails/ screen shots confirming the price and purchasing of **your pet**
- Bank statement showing a transfer or cash withdrawal which match the

purchase date, for the specified value of purchase/donation

The percentage payment in all cases will be based on the age of **your pet** at the date it goes missing using the **pets** date of birth on **your schedule** and will be calculated follows:

Age at date your pet strays or is stolen	Percentage payment
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Up to one year	100%
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One to two years	75%
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Three to four years	50%
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Five to six years	25%
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Seven years and over	10%
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The **insurer** will pay local advertising costs and any reward which **you** have to pay which helps to find and recover **your** lost **pet**, if it goes missing from **your home** due to straying or theft in the **period of insurance**, provided that **you** first obtain **our** written agreement to the costs and of the reward, up to the amount paid or donated for **your pet**, to be offered.

Included within the amount for loss and recovery the **insurer** will pay up to £75 towards sundries for **you** to make advertising material including leaflets, flyers, posters or similar.

If **your pet** is found or has returned after **we** have paid **you**, **you** must repay the **insurer** the full amount that **you** have received for its loss.

The most the **insurer** will pay is up to the amount shown on **your schedule**.

Following the loss of your pet, your policy does not automatically end, but our normal cancellation policy applies. Please refer to the cancellation information on page 7 for full details.

What is not covered

The **insurer** will not cover the following:

1. **Dogs** aged 8 years and over at the date they go missing.
2. Cats aged 10 years and over at the date they go missing.
3. Theft which does not involve forcible or violent entry to a secure area, such as a pen or **your home**.
4. Theft if **you** have not reported it to the police and have a crime reference number.
5. Any loss if **you** have not reported a missing **pet** to at least one rescue centre for cats and a dog warden for dogs.
6. Any loss if **you** or any person responsible for **your pet** has voluntarily parted with it for any reason or abandoned it deliberately.
7. Any reward to a member of **your family**, anyone who lives with **you** at **your home**, is employed by **you**, was looking after **your pet** when it went missing or is otherwise known to **you**.
8. Any reward that has not been paid by **you** first.
9. Any reward for which **you** do not have a signed receipt showing the full name and address of the person who found **your pet**.
10. Anything detailed in the general exclusions.
11. The cost of pheromone products.

Section E – Emergency boarding and pet minding fees

All amounts are for each **pet** insured.
Cover is provided in the **UK**.

What is covered

The **insurer** will pay for the cost of boarding **your pet** in a licenced kennels or a cattery, or, for the services of a professional pet home carer whilst **you** are an in-patient of a hospital on medical advice due to an accidental injury or illness for 5 or more consecutive days.

The most the **insurer** will pay is up to the amount shown on **your schedule**.

What is not covered

The **insurer** will not pay the cost of boarding **your pet** due to:

1. **your** stay in hospital that is not on medical advice.
2. a stay in hospital that **you** knew **you** needed before the cover start date or any chronic recurring **condition you** already have when taking out **your policy**.
3. a stay in a convalescent or nursing home.
4. hospital admission for alcoholism, drug abuse, attempted suicide, self-harm or self-inflicted injury or illness.

Section F – Holiday cancellation or curtailment

The amounts are for each **holiday**. Cover is provided in the **UK** and while you are on **holiday**.

Bronze – This section is not included in the Bronze level of cover

What is covered

Silver, Gold, Prime, Premier Plus cover:

The **insurer** will pay for unrecoverable travel and accommodation costs **you** have to pay as a result of cancelling or cutting short **your holiday** because **your pet** goes missing or needs immediate emergency life-saving surgery either whilst **you** are on **holiday** or within 7 days of the date **you** are due to leave.

The most the **insurer** will pay is up to the amount shown on **your schedule**.

What is not covered

The **insurer** will not pay:

1. For any **holiday** where the **holiday** was booked less than 4 weeks before **you** are due to leave.
2. Costs as a result of **you** delaying telling the company or companies providing **your** travel and accommodation that **you** are cancelling or cutting short **your holiday**.
3. Any costs for anyone else that is on **holiday** or going on **holiday** with **you**.
4. Any costs for cancellation or curtailment for any other reason or where surgery is not immediately needed to save the life of **your pet**.
5. More than the **insurer's** share if **you** are insured under any other insurance policy that covers the same loss.
6. Anything detailed in the general exclusions.

Section G – Accidental damage

All amounts are for each **pet** insured. Cover is provided in the **UK**.

Bronze, Silver and Gold: This section is not included under the Bronze, Silver or Gold levels of cover

What is covered

Prime, Premier and Premier Plus:

The **insurer** will pay if, while visiting someone else's property **your pet** causes accidental damage to personal property.

You do not have to be legally liable for the damage to make a claim under this cover.

The most the **insurer** will pay is up to the amount shown on **your schedule**.

What is not covered

The **insurer** will not pay:

1. For damage to personal property owned by or in the control of **you**, **your family**, employee, or guest.
2. For damage to any personal property belonging to any person entrusted with the care, control, and custody of **your pet**.
3. For damage occurring when **your pet** is left in a home where no person aged 18 or over is present.
4. For damage to any motor vehicle or its contents.
5. For damage caused by **your pet** fouling, vomiting, or urinating on/in any items.
6. More than the **insurer's** share if **you** are insured under any other insurance policy that covers the same loss.
7. Anything detailed in the general exclusions.

Conditions applying to all sections of cover

You must take care of **your pet** including arranging and paying for any **treatment** recommended by **your vet** to prevent the risk of **injury** or **illness**.

You must arrange for a **vet** to examine and treat **your pet(s)** as soon as possible after it shows **clinical signs** of an **injury** or **illness**. If **we** decide this may not be the case, **we** may refer the case to an independent **vet**.

If it can be established that any delay in arranging **treatment** has or is likely to result in additional costs or expenses being incurred, **we** reserve the right to either refuse to admit the claim or make a deduction from any settlement to reflect these increased costs or expenses.

You must ensure that **your pet** is vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus for **dogs**, kennel cough when entering a boarding kennel or show, and feline infections such as enteritis, feline leukaemia, and cat flu for cats. **You** must also agree to have **your pet** vaccinated against other diseases a **vet** says is necessary. **You** must keep **your pet's** vaccinations up to date, as recommended by **your vet**. If any of the above diseases are not vaccinated against, they will be excluded from **your policy**.

Routine, preventative, or chronic **conditions** are never considered an **accident/injury**, even if they appear suddenly. An **injury** claim must have resulted from an accidental, traumatic and external cause.

For instance, if **your pet** trips and suffers a broken bone (an **accident** → **injury**), **treatment** for that broken bone would be covered under **injury**-only cover.

Cover for **accident/injury** only applies if there is a direct external cause.

Treatment for **illnesses** is covered only if your **policy** level includes **illness cover**.

Conditions Resulting from **Accident** or **Injury**: If a **condition** or complication occurs as a direct consequence of a covered **accident** or **injury**, it will be considered part of the original **injury** and covered under your policy.

If a condition arises as a direct consequence of an uncovered **injury**, including **pre-existing conditions**, it will not be covered, even if it occurs after the **policy** starts.

Example:

Covered: **Your pet** breaks a leg in a new **accident** → later develops arthritis in the same leg → covered.

Not covered: **Your pet** had a leg break before the **policy** started → later develops arthritis in that leg → not covered.

You must ensure that **your pet** is wormed, and flea treated regularly and if there is a risk of contagion **you** should keep **your pet** isolated to avoid infection.

You must take steps to ensure **your pet** remains within the acceptable weight range of your pets breed as advised by **your vet** in order to prevent any increase in the health risk that being under or overweight can cause.

A **dog** on a public road must be on a collar and lead and under control at all times. **You** should take steps to ensure that **your dog** does not escape or stray. Areas in which a **dog** is kept must be secure and properly fenced or otherwise organised to prevent escape.

In the **UK**, **your dog** must always have a collar on that provides **your** contact details in case **your dog** goes missing or runs off.

If **your pet** dies or is euthanised and **you** are making a claim under **your policy**, **you** must arrange at **your** expense for **your vet** to certify **your pet's** death stating the cause and date. If euthanised, **we** will need a certificate stating that this was necessary for humane reasons and to stop incurable suffering.

Level of **vet fees** allowed: **We** reserve the right to obtain a second opinion from a **vet** advisor where **we** consider:

- **Vet fees** charged appear greater than conventional fees charged by an attending/referral practice; and/or

- **Treatment** received may not have been required or may have been excessive when compared with **treatment** conventionally undertaken by an attending/referral practice.

Where there is a dispute, **we** will pay only those **veterinary fees** deemed reasonable and essential. **We** allow a maximum mark-up of 100% on the manufacturer's or wholesaler's price of veterinary medicines, which includes any dispensing fees, less VAT. For example, if the manufacturer price of a medicine is £20, the maximum reimbursable amount would be £40, including any dispensing fees. If the amount charged exceeds this, the difference will be **your** responsibility. You may provide evidence of the **vet's** cost price versus price charged, and **we** may review the claim to ensure reimbursement is fair and transparent. **We** may review this on evidence of the actual cost paid by the **vet** compared with the price charged to **you** and adjust the amount payable where appropriate.

Payment of Claims

We will normally reimburse **you**, the policyholder, for eligible veterinary costs after your claim has been approved.

If **you** and **your vet** have agreed that the **vet** will submit the claim directly, **we** can pay the **vet** directly for the eligible **treatment**. Please note that **we** do not offer pre-authorisation of **treatment**, so any direct payment must be agreed between **you** and **your vet** in advance.

Any amounts not covered by **your policy**, such as **excesses**, inner limits, or non-covered **treatment**, will remain **your** responsibility.

A **bilateral condition** is a **condition** that can affect both sides of **your pet's** body, such as the eyes, ears, knees, or cruciate ligaments, whether it occurs at the same time or separately.

When applying benefit limits, **excesses**, or exclusions, **bilateral conditions** are treated as one **condition**, not separate claims for each side.

If **your pet** receives **treatment** for a **bilateral condition** within 24 months of previously being treated for the same **condition** on the other side, the new **treatment** will be linked as a continuation of the original **condition**. All relevant **policy** terms, limits, and **excesses** will apply.

Example:

Your dog has a cruciate ligament **injury** in the left knee and is treated under **your** policy.

18 months later, **your dog** develops a cruciate ligament **injury** in the right knee.

This is considered a continuation of the original **bilateral condition**, so the same **policy** limits, **excess**, and inner limits apply.

For a list of the most common bilateral conditions, please visit:

<https://scratchandpatch.co.uk/exclusions/>

This list is not exhaustive.

There may be occasions whereby a claim may require authorisation from the **insurer**. This may, in some circumstances, cause a slight delay in reaching a decision regarding the claim as a result of the referral. If such instance does occur, **we** will contact **you** to let **you** know and keep **you** updated with the progression of **your** claim.

Reasonable, Necessary, and Essential Treatment

When **we** say **your pet's treatment** must be reasonable, necessary, and essential, we mean:

Necessary: The **treatment** is required to diagnose, relieve, or cure an **injury** or **illness** affecting **your pet**.

Essential: The **treatment** is clinically needed, not optional, experimental, or purely for convenience.

Reasonable: The **treatment** is in line with current veterinary practice standards and charged at a fair price, reflecting what is usual in the UK.

How Your Policy Limits Work

Your policy limits depend on the type of **cover** you have.

Bronze, Silver, and Gold policies have per-**condition** or per-**accident** limits: once the limit for a **condition** or **accident** is reached, no further claims for that **condition** or **accident** will be paid.

Prime, Premier, and Premier Plus policies use a reinstatement limit, meaning the total **policy** year limit applies across all **conditions** and resets at renewal.

Please note that any applicable **excesses**, inner limits, or **co-payment** options may reduce the amount payable. Always check **your policy schedule** for the exact limits that apply to **your** level of **cover**.

Chronic or Ongoing Conditions

If **your pet** has a chronic or ongoing **condition**, **treatment** or claims may continue across multiple **policy** years. Any continuation claims for the **condition** will continue to be subject to the applicable limits, inner limits, and **excesses**.

Important: If a claim spans two or more **policy** years, the excess will apply separately for each year.

If **you** disagree with the outcome of a claim or **policy** decision, **you** may request a review. This includes situations such as:

- A claim being declined as a **pre-existing condition**,
- A deduction applied to medication costs, or
- Any other decision made under **your policy** terms.

To request a review, **you** must provide all relevant supporting documentation, including veterinary records, invoices, or any other supporting evidence **you** wish us to consider.

Once received, **your** case will be reviewed by a senior claims handler independent of the original decision. The review may include:

- Re-assessment of all submitted documentation,
- Comparison of veterinary charges and **treatment** against RCVS accepted practice standards,
- Consultation with an independent veterinary professional, if necessary.

Your case may be referred from the to **Only Pets Cover** Ltd for further assessment.

We will communicate the outcome of the review in writing, explaining any changes to the decision and the reasons for **our** final determination.

General exclusions applying to all sections of cover

The **insurer** will not pay:

1. Any claim for or as a result of a **pre-existing condition**.
2. Any claim for or as a result of an **illness** which
 - a. first showed **clinical signs**,
 - b. has the same diagnosis or **clinical signs** as an **illness** that showed **clinical signs** or
 - c. is caused by, relates to, or results from a **clinical sign** of an **illness**

that was noticed, in the first 14 days of **your pet's** cover.

3. **Accident / Injury** Waiting Period:
Any claim for or as a result of an **accident** or **injury** which occurs within 48 hours of the start date of **your pet's cover** will not be covered.

These waiting periods apply only to new policies or newly added **cover** levels.

These waiting period exclusions do not apply if **your pet** was insured for **veterinary fee's** under another **policy** of insurance up to the start date (inception) of the first **period of insurance** with the **insurer** and **you** provide proof of this to **us**.

4. Any claim for or as a result of any previous or existing adverse behavioural or aggressive characteristics at inception which have been noted by **you**, the breeder, a veterinary practice, rehoming organisation or any previous owner(s) or for incidents before the start date of the first **period of insurance**.
5. Any claim resulting from **your pet** being neutered or spayed. However, **we** will cover any cost arising from any complications of neutering or spaying.

6. Any claim as a result of any sexually transmitted disease, rabies, foot and mouth, epidemic or pandemic outbreaks or any 'notifiable' disease as listed by DEFRA – **UK** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs or any claim as a result of restrictions put on **your pet** by DEFRA.
7. Any claims as a result of an Act of Parliament, by law or central or local government regulation.
8. Any costs as a direct result of the event which led to the claim **you** are making under this **policy**.
9. Any loss or damage to any property, or any legal liability, directly or indirectly resulting from or contributed to or arising from:
 - a. Ionising radiations or contamination by radioactivity from any nuclear fuel, or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel, the radioactive, toxic, explosive, or other hazardous properties of any explosive nuclear assembly or nuclear component of such assembly;
 - b. war, act of terrorism, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities (whether war has been declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, military, or usurped power.
10. Any loss, **injury**, damage, **illness**, death, or legal liability directly or indirectly resulting from, happening through, in consequence of or contributed to:
 - a. An epidemic, pandemic, or other such health warning, and declared as such by the Department of Health and Children and/or the World Health Organisation;
 - b. Arising from any fear or threat (whether actual or perceived) of such epidemic or pandemic being declared or occurring;
 - c. Any action taking in controlling, preventing, suppressing or in any way relating to any outbreak of such epidemic or pandemic.

11. The cost of or compensation due, where **your pet** is euthanised under a court order following its destruction for the protection of livestock.
12. Costs arising as a result of a disease transmitted from animals or birds to humans.
13. Claims where **your pet** has been used for commercial breeding, monetary gain, security purposes, as a guard **dog**, in any trade, profession or business, in any form of racing or any **pet** trained to attack.
14. Claims of any kind which result from **your pet** straying, escaping, damaging property, or attacking people if **your pet** has done this before.
15. Any claims for a **pet** which should be registered under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and the Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 or any subsequent amendments or re-enactments or wolf hybrids.
16. Any **pet** less than 5 weeks' old is an excluded **dog** or cat.
17. Experimental, Unconventional or Unproven Treatment: **We** do not **cover** the cost of any **treatment** that is experimental, unconventional, or unproven. This includes **treatments** that have not been widely accepted in veterinary practice or lack evidence of clinical efficacy.
18. **Pre-Existing Conditions** – Linked **Conditions**: If a **condition** later appears to be linked to a **pre-existing condition**, **we** may refuse any further claims or payments related to that **condition**. This includes any continuation, recurrence, or complication of the original **pre-existing condition**.

Excluded dogs

The following **dogs** are not eligible for this insurance and are excluded from all cover:

1. Any **dog** used for trade, profession, or business except Assistance Dogs

2. Any **dog** used for guarding, racing, coursing, or beating whether for business or recreational purposes.

The following **dogs**, as outlined in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, are specifically excluded from cover under any section of this **policy**:

- Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa / Tosa Inus
- Dogo Argentino (also referred to as Argentine Dogo and Argentinian Mastiff)
- Fila Brasileiro
- XL Bully

Including any “type”, as defined in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, considered to match the description of a prohibited “type”; any breed crossed with the above; and any other breed or type deemed to be dangerous by the Secretary of State and subsequently added to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

The following types/breeds and/or any **dog** crossbred from these are also excluded from cover under any section of this **policy**:

- American Bandogge / Bandogge Mastiff
- Australian Dingo
- Bully Kutta
- Canadian Inuit
- Canary Dogs / Perro De Pressa Canarios/ Presa Canarios
- Cane Corsos
- Central Asian Shepherd Dog
- Czechoslovakian Wolfdogs / Sarlooswolfhounds / Wolf Hybrids
- Irish Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Racing Greyhounds
- Tamaskan

If **your dog** is found to be an excluded **dog** the **insurer** will cancel **your policy**, refuse all claims, and keep any premium **you** have paid. **We** will also charge **you** the cancellation fee.

Complaints procedure

We aim to ensure that all aspects of **your** insurance are dealt with promptly, efficiently, and fairly. At all times **we** are committed to providing **you** with the highest standard of service. If **you** are dissatisfied about the handling of a claim or service received and wish to complain **you** should, in the first instance, contact **us** using the details below:

If your complaint is about Policy Administration

Write to:

Scratch and Patch Customer Relations
1st Floor, Premier House,
Carolina Court,
Doncaster,
South Yorkshire,
DN4 5RA

Telephone: 0345 074 4819

Email:

complaints@scratchandpatch.co.uk

If your complaint is about Claims

Write to:

Scratch and Patch Claims
ClaimSorted Ltd
124 City Road,
London,
EC1V 2NX

Telephone: 0330 102 6839

Email: claims@scratchandpatch.co.uk

If **you** remain dissatisfied after **we** have considered **your** complaint **you** may also be able to refer **your** complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service without affecting **your** legal rights. Further information can be found on their website www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk.

Data protection and your personal information

Your personal information is made up of all the details **we** and the **insurer** hold about **you** and **your** transactions and includes information **we** gather from other organisations. This information will be used to administer this **policy** and handle claims. **Your** information will be held for no longer than is necessary. By providing this information **you** consent to **us** and the **insurer** processing personal and sensitive data about **you** where this is necessary or appropriate.

Transferring information to other countries

We and the **insurer** may transfer **your** information to countries outside of the **UK** and EEA on the basis that anyone to whom **we** or the **insurer** pass it provides an adequate level of protection. However, this information may be accessed by law-enforcement agencies and other authorities to prevent and detect crime and keep to legal obligations.

Credit-reference agencies

When **we** provided **you** with a quote, **we** searched the electoral roll and other information using a credit-reference agency. A record of the check will be held by the credit-reference agency who may place a footprint of 'insurance search' on **your** credit file. This footprint will not alter **your** credit score.

Information held about you

You are entitled to a copy of the information that is held about **you**. **Your** request for information should be made in writing, to **us**.

Further information about **your** rights and how **we** deal with **your** data is contained in **our** Privacy and Legal Statement

<https://scratchandpatch.co.uk/legal/privacy-legal-statement/>

If **you** are unable to access this website, details can be obtained by contacting **us** using the contact information provided in the How to contact **us** section below

Regulatory Information

You can check the information below on the Financial Conduct Authority register by visiting register.fca.org.uk or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768.

About Scratch & Patch

Scratch & Patch is a trading name of Only Pets Cover Limited. Only Pets Cover Limited of 124 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX, United Kingdom is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Their Financial Service Number is 840293. Company number 09971968.

About URIS Group Limited (the administrator)

URIS Group Limited of 1st Floor, Premier House, Carolina Court, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 5RA is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Their Financial Services Number is 307332. Company number is 02461657.

About the Insurer

Stonebridge International Insurance Ltd
Registered office: 14th Floor, 33 Cavendish Square, London, United Kingdom, W1G 0PW. Company number: **03321734**. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Firm Reference Number: 203188.

About ClaimSorted Ltd (the claims handler)

ClaimSorted, Ltd
124 City Road, London, England, EC1V 2NX
Company number: 15848796

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme

We are covered by the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). **You** may be entitled to compensation from the scheme if **we** cannot meet **our** obligations. This depends on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim. Most insurance contracts are covered for 90% of the claim with no upper limit. **You** can learn more about this scheme at www.fscs.org.uk or by phoning 0800 678 1100 or 0207 741 4100 or writing to Financial Services Compensation Scheme, 10th Floor,

Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London, EC3A 7QU.

How to contact us

Policy administration 0330 1026839, admin@scratchandpatch.co.uk
Administration Complaints 0345 074 4819, complaints@scratchandpatch.co.uk

Claims & Claims Complaints 0330 1026839, claims@scratchandpatch.co.uk
Or visit **our** website www.scratchandpatch.co.uk

Opening times:

- Policy Administration
Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday Sunday & Bank Holidays: - Closed
- Claims
Monday – Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays: - Closed

Scratch & Patch Careline

The Scratch & Patch Careline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and provides advice and guidance on how to care for **your pet** as well as in an emergency.

If **you** have any concerns about **your pet**:

1. Dial 0333 332 1926
2. Provide the insurance **policy** number shown on **your schedule**
3. Describe **your** concerns, questions, or **your pet's** symptoms
4. A veterinary nurse will answer **your** questions and explain what **you** need to do next.

Before **you** make a claim, **your pet** must have seen a **vet** for a professional assessment.

This is not a claims helpline. To notify a claim call 0330 1026839.

Vulnerable Customers

We recognise that some customers may be experiencing vulnerable circumstances, which could include, but are not limited to:

- Illness, disability, or mental health conditions
- Bereavement or significant life events
- Financial difficulties
- Any other circumstance that might make it harder to manage your policy or make a claim

If you are in vulnerable circumstances, we are committed to providing additional support to help you access our services and understand your policy.

This includes:

- Offering extra time and patience when communicating with us
- Providing clear and accessible information about your policy and claims
- Supporting alternative communication methods, if needed

You can contact our team for assistance:

Telephone: 0330 102 6839

Email: admin@scratchandpatch.co.uk

OR claims@scratchandpatch.co.uk

Website: www.scratchandpatch.co.uk

We also provide information and support from external helplines:

- Samaritans: 116 123 (Free, confidential support for anyone in distress)
- Age UK Advice Line: 0800 169 6565 (Support for older people)

- Citizens Advice: 0800 144 8848 (Financial and general advice)

If you or someone assisting you needs extra help due to vulnerable circumstances, please let us know so we can provide the appropriate support.

Customer Support and Feedback

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to get help and provide feedback. You can reach us or find information in the following ways:

FAQs: We highly recommend first checking our FAQs page which provides a library of answers to a variety of queries. Visit our website for answers to common questions:

www.scratchandpatch.co.uk/faqs

Live Chat: Chat with a member of our team via our website:

www.scratchandpatch.co.uk/live-chat

WhatsApp: Contact us for support via WhatsApp at +44 7451 278041

Customer Reviews: Share your experience or view feedback on

Trustpilot:
www.trustpilot.com/review/scratchandpatch.co.uk

These channels are provided for convenience and customer support. They are not part of your insurance contract, but they can help you get information, resolve queries, or provide feedback quickly.

Scratch & Patch

Telephone 0330 1026839

Email admin@scratchandpatch.co.uk

www.scratchandpatch.co.uk

