# Making Affordable Veterinary Care More Accessible

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**The number of pet owners who cannot afford veterinary care is alarming.**



**52%**

**of US pet owners have declined necessary veterinary care**

**73%**

**of owners who declined care due to cost indicated not being offered a more cost-effective option**

**30%**

**of pet owners said they knew someone whose pet passed away because the owner could not afford the necessary veterinary care**

# *Why It Matters*

Pet companionship offers extensive mental and physical health benefits, with the Human Animal Bond Research Institute estimating that pet ownership saves the US healthcare system nearly $23 billion annually

Yet, approximately 50 million pets in the US lack access to appropriate veterinary care that meets the basic standards



Lack of affordable veterinary care is more prevalent in already vulnerable populations like: 18-29 year olds (59%), black pet owners (58%), hispanic pet owners (57%) and households earning less than $60,000 annually (55%)

A lack of access to veterinary care also contributes to the surrender of pets to shelters for financial reasons, and exacerbates the overcrowding of animals in shelters.

# Goal

Inform first-time pet owners about clinics that offer routine and emergency care at reduced costs (such as CSU Spur) through talks at MSU Denver that are open to both students and non-students.



| Task | Timeline | |
|---|---|---|
| Investigate in greater depth how the cost of emergency procedures at CSU Spur is determined | December 2026 – January 2027 | |
| Contact Humane Colorado to find out if they have an educational ambassador interested in serving as a guest speaker during the talks. | February 2027 - March 2027 | |
| Contact MSU Denver and find out if they have any rooms available that I could use. | March 2027 – April 2027 | |

# Thanks



