



News Release



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Good Luck Pups: Dog Breeds Blessed with Good Health in 2017

Petplan's data reveals some pet breeds are "luckier" than others

Newtown Square, PA (DATE) — The "luck of the Irish" isn't just for setters and wolfhounds this month. In celebration of Saint Patrick's Day, Petplan pet insurance is taking a look at which dog breeds found themselves favored by fortune last year — and which got unlucky when it came to health conditions.

According to Petplan's wealth of pet health data, the luckiest breeds of the last year were the Australian Cattle Dog, Chihuahua, Dachshund, Shiba Inu and American Pit Bull Terrier. These breeds saw the lowest percentage of claims in 2017.*

Next, Petplan ran the numbers to see which dogs weren't so fortunate — as well as the conditions that plagued these pups and the average cost to pet parents.* Topping the company's "unluckiest" list, the following dog breeds visited the vet most in 2017.

1. Bernese Mountain Dog — commonly treated for hemangiosarcoma (averaging \$4,790), kidney disorders (\$1,636) and hypothyroidism (\$359)
2. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel — commonly treated for heart murmurs (\$990), mitral valve insufficiency (\$1,143) and seizures (\$1,454)
3. Great Dane — commonly treated for Addison's disease (\$1,287), wobbler syndrome (\$3,866) and cruciate ligament tears (\$3,543)
4. English Bulldog — commonly treated for atopic dermatitis (\$833), corneal ulcers (\$747) and otitis externa (\$407)
5. Doberman Pinscher — commonly treated for dilated cardiomyopathy (\$1,794), gastroenteritis (\$891) and skin infections (\$517)

Petplan's findings may be troubling to pet parents of these "unlucky" breeds, but it doesn't take the help of a leprechaun to turn bad luck around! By following vet-recommended preventive care guidelines and getting pups in for annual veterinary checkups, pet parents can help give their dogs the good fortune to enjoy long and happy lives.

"Though this data may indicate that some breeds are luckier than others, the reality is that any pet is blessed beyond measure to have a happy home and a caring family," says Petplan co-founder and co-CEO Natasha Ashton. "Besides, I'm a big believer in making one's own luck — that's why it's our mission to educate pet parents about common breed conditions and empower them to make proactive, informed choices to help protect the health of their furry loved ones."

It's also important to remember that even breeds "lucky" enough to avoid developing diseases are still at risk when it comes to accidents and injuries — such as foreign body obstructions (averaging \$1,855 to treat), which ranks high on Petplan's list of common conditions regardless of breed.

For more info about breed-specific medical conditions, point your paws to Petplan's Condition Checker at petplan.com/condition-check.

*Average costs based on 2017 Petplan claims data.

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ABOUT PETPLAN

Petplan has built an industry-leading pet insurance policy for pet parents who demand a higher pedigree of care for their best friends. We've leveraged 40 years of global experience to create completely customizable coverage pet parents can feel confident in, and world-class claims service that operates 24 hours a day, every day.

Petplan's innovative approach to pet insurance has been recognized by *Forbes*, *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg*, *Inc. magazine*, *Smart CEO*, the Communicator Awards, Ernst & Young and many others.

Petplan policies are underwritten in the U.S. by XL Specialty Insurance Company and in Canada by XL Specialty Insurance Company - Canadian Branch. The company is rated A+ by S&P (2018). Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions. For more information about Petplan pet insurance, visit www.petplan.com or call 1-866-467-3875.

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