

NATIONAL CASUALTY COMPANY

A Stock Insurance Company

Home Office: Scottsdale, AZ

Administrative Office: 8877 North Gainey Center Drive • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258 • 800-423-7675

DIRECT ALL INQUIRES AND CLAIMS TO:

DVM Insurance Agency: 1800 E. Imperial Highway, Suite 145 • Brea, CA 92821 • 800-540-2016 • 714-989-0555

VBW-I COVERAGE FORM

1. INSURING AGREEMENT

We will provide the insurance described in this policy in return for **your** premium payment when due and compliance with all policy provisions. **We** will pay **covered veterinary expenses** that **you** incur during the policy term for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of **your pet's condition** provided to **your pet** during the policy term. Benefit payments are subject to all exclusions, limitations, and conditions of this insurance policy.

2. DEFINITIONS

We define words or phrases in **your** policy. **We** identify these terms with bold typeface. Any veterinary medical terms or phrases not defined in this policy will be interpreted as defined in the most recent edition of Blood D.C., Studdert V.P., Gay C.C., *Saunders Comprehensive Veterinary Dictionary*. London, UK: W.B. Saunders.

- A. **Chronic condition** means a **condition** that can be treated or managed, but ~~not cured~~.
- B. **Condition** means an **illness** or **injury** that **your pet** contracts or incurs.
- C. **Covered veterinary expenses** means expenses for reasonable and necessary **veterinary expenses** that **you** incur for **veterinary services** that are eligible for payment under this policy.
- D. **Cured** means eliminated and having no effect on **your pet** so that **your pet** is fully restored to normal health without any further treatment or management.
- E. **Drug or drugs** means medication or other substance undergoing clinical trials for or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that is used to treat a **condition**.
- F. **Family member** means a person living in **your** household or a person who is related by blood, marriage, or adoption whether living in **your** household or not.
- G. **Illness** means any **condition** caused by or associated with disease, including pregnancy.
- H. **Injury** means physical damage to **your pet's** body caused by an unforeseen physical action or force outside **your pet's** body.
- I. **Nutritional supplement** means dietary supplements, including vitamins and nutraceuticals, **prescribed** to treat a **condition** that is covered by **your** policy.
- J. **Pet** means the animal identified on the Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate of this policy.
- K. **Pet insurance** means an individual or group insurance policy that provides coverage for **veterinary expenses**.
- L. **Pre-existing condition** means any **condition** that began or was contracted, manifested, or incurred up to twelve months before the effective date of this policy or during any **waiting period**, whether or not the **condition** was discovered, diagnosed, or treated. A **chronic condition** is a **pre-existing condition** unless it began after the effective date of this policy.
- M. **Prescribed** means: (1) directly provided by or (2) authorized by written instruction of a **veterinarian**.
- N. **Prescription pet food** means a manufactured pet diet formulated to be used in a diagnostic or therapeutic setting which has modifications of nutrient concentrations outside the current Association of America Feed Control Officials

(AAFCO) guidelines for healthy pets. **Prescription pet food** is **prescribed** solely to treat or manage a **condition** that is covered by **your** policy and is available exclusively through **your veterinarian**, or by prescription from **your veterinarian**.

- O. **Spouse** means **your** husband, wife, or domestic partner under the law of **your** state of residence, who lives with **you** at the address shown on the Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate of **your** policy.
- P. **Veterinarian** means a legally licensed veterinary medical practitioner.
- Q. **Veterinary expenses** means the costs associated with medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment provided by a **veterinarian**, including, but not limited to, the cost of **drugs prescribed** by a **veterinarian**.
- R. **Veterinary services** means medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment provided by a **veterinarian** who has physically examined **your pet**, including, but not limited to, **drugs, nutritional supplements** and **prescription pet food**.
- S. **Void** means to declare that this policy is no longer in force or effect.
- T. **Waiting or affiliation period** means the period of time specified in a **pet insurance** policy that is required to transpire before some or all of the coverage in the policy can begin.
- U. **We, us, or our** means the company providing this insurance.
- V. **You or your** means the **pet** owner listed on the Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate of this policy.

3. POLICY TERM

Your policy is effective during the dates and times shown on **your** Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate. **Your** policy only applies to **covered veterinary expenses** that **you** incur during the policy term due to **your pet's condition** that occurs while **your** policy is in effect.

4. BENEFIT PROVISIONS

- A. **We** list **your** deductible and coinsurance percentage on **your** Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate. **Your** deductible applies once in each policy term.
- B. **We** will pay **covered veterinary expenses** that **you** incur during the policy term, subject to **your** deductible and coinsurance percentage. **We** will not pay any amount unless **your covered veterinary expenses** exceed **your** deductible. If they do **we** will: (1) apply **your** coinsurance percentage to the **covered veterinary expenses** that exceed **your** deductible and (2) pay the resulting amount.
- C. **We** will not pay more than \$7,500 in each policy term.

5. ADDITIONAL COVERAGE

We will pay each of the Additional Coverage benefits listed below only once per policy term, up to the limits of the Additional Coverage amounts listed within sections 5A through 5D. The additional coverage provided in this section does not increase the maximum amount payable in each policy term. Benefit payments will be subject to **your** deductible and coinsurance percentage as shown on the Declarations Page of **your** policy.

A. Boarding or Kennel Fees:

We will pay for costs **you** incur during the policy term associated with boarding **your pet** at a licensed kennel to look after **your pet** while **you** or a **family member** is hospitalized as a result of sickness or disease. This coverage is limited to a maximum annual benefit of \$500. **You** must submit certification of hospitalization from the attending physician and/or hospital that treated **you** or **your family member**; and submit the itemized receipt from the licensed kennel including proof of payment.

We will not pay any benefits if **you** or **your family member** is admitted to a hospital for less than forty-eight (48) hours.

B. Advertising and Reward:

We will pay for costs **you** incur for advertising or offering a reward if **your pet** is stolen or strays during the policy term. This coverage is limited to a maximum annual benefit of \$500. **You** must send **us** a completed claim form along with all itemized receipts for costs associated with advertising and reward.

We will not pay any benefits for any reward not supported by a signed receipt giving the full name, phone number, and address of the person who found **your pet**; any reward paid to any resident of **your** household, a **family member**, a person employed by **you**, or known by **you**; or any reward resulting from **your** neglect or deliberate concealment of **your pet**.

C. Loss Due to Theft or Straying:

We will pay the price **you** paid for **your pet**, up to the maximum benefit of \$500, if **your pet** is stolen or goes missing during the policy term and is not found. If **you** did not pay for **your pet** or have no formal proof of how much **you** paid in the form of an original receipt, **we** will pay **you** \$150. **Your** policy will be cancelled and **we** will refund any unearned premium on a prorated basis. **You** must send **us** a completed claim form including the original receipt for the price **you** paid for **your pet** if **your pet** has not been found within sixty (60) days.

We will not pay any benefits if **you**, or the person looking after **your pet**, freely parts with **your pet**.

D. Mortality Benefit:

We will pay **covered veterinary expenses** that **you** incur during the policy term for fees associated with the death of **your pet** due to **injury** or **illness**. **We** will pay for: 1) a **veterinarian** to humanely euthanize **your pet**, 2) cremation and burial expenses, and 3) the price **you** paid for **your pet** up to the maximum benefit of \$1,000. If **you** did not pay for **your pet** or have no formal proof of how much **you** paid in the form of an original receipt, **we** will pay **you** \$150. **Your** policy will be cancelled and **we** will refund any unearned premium on a prorated basis. **You** must send **us** a completed claim form including the original receipt for **veterinary expenses**; and the original receipt for the price **you** paid for **your pet**.

We will not pay for the price **you** paid for **your pet** if **your** dog was eight (8) years of age or older or **your** cat was ten (10) years of age or older at the time of death and died or was euthanized due to an **illness**, or **your veterinarian** is not able to verify the death of **your pet** and sign the claim form.

6. WHAT WE DO NOT COVER-EXCLUSIONS

We will not pay for:

- A. Diagnosis or treatment of any **pre-existing condition**.
- B. Diagnosis or treatment of any **condition** identified as an Additional Excluded **Condition** on the Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate of **your** policy.
- C. Diagnosis or treatment of any complication or progression of any **condition** excluded by this policy.
- D. Diagnosis or treatment of any **condition** caused intentionally by **you** or any other resident of **your** household.
- E. Any behavioral training, therapy or treatment that is: (1) not **prescribed** by a licensed **veterinarian** or (2) pet obedience training.
- F. Dietary or **nutritional supplements** used to preserve or improve general nutrition or health, even if **prescribed** by a **veterinarian**.
- G. Pet foods or commercial pet diets that are used to preserve or improve general nutrition or health and can be purchased without a prescription, including foods such as: life stages (puppy, senior, etc.), low calorie, sensitive stomach, or limited ingredients, even if recommended by a **veterinarian** for treatment of **your pet's condition**.
- H. Boarding (except as described in section 5A), storage, transportation and grooming, including services such as: nail trims, or bathing.
- I. Fees or other expenses for pet services and supplies not **prescribed** by **your veterinarian** to prevent, diagnose or treat **your pet's condition**.

- J. Fees or other expenses not directly related to **veterinary services** including fees or expenses incurred for items such as: (1) waste disposal, (2) record access or copying, (3) any license or certification, except a state or federal health certificate provided to **you** by **your veterinarian**, (4) compliance with any government rule or regulation, (5) any tax, or (6) any charge assessed by any bank, credit card company, or other financial institution.
- K. Diagnosis or treatment that is experimental, investigational, or otherwise not within the standard of care accepted by the veterinary medical board of **your** state.
- L. Diagnosis or treatment of any **condition** caused directly or indirectly by war, rebellion, insurrection, or any release of nuclear radiation or radioactive contamination.

7. YOUR DUTIES

- A. **We** ask **you** to provide **us** with prompt (i.e. within 90 days of **your pet's** first treatment for any **condition**) notice of a claim. Delayed submission of **your** claim may prevent **us** from fairly or accurately adjusting **your** claim and may be grounds for denial.
- B. **You** must submit complete and legible claim forms to **us** and include itemized receipts for **veterinary expenses** that identify **your pet** by name.
- C. **You** must provide **us** with all medical records or requested documentation from the attending **veterinarian** relating to **your pet's** health upon **our** request. **You** agree to submit **your pet** to examination by a **veterinarian** selected by **us** upon **our** request.
- D. **You** must reasonably protect **your pet** from aggravation of any **condition**.
- E. Upon payment of benefits, **we** will be subrogated to **your** rights of recovery from any other party.
- F. It is agreed that, unless otherwise notified by **you**, all documents and communications regarding this policy, its endorsements, and any notices may be delivered to **you** by electronic mail using the email address associated with **your** account, except documents required to be delivered by another method. It is further agreed that it is **your** responsibility to keep **your** contact details, including email, telephone and postal address, current and correct.

8. OTHER INSURANCE

- A. If **your pet** is covered by more than one policy issued by **us**, **we** will not pay more than the highest amount payable under any one policy.
- B. This insurance is excess over any other insurance covering **your pet** that is provided by a policy issued by any other insurance company, whether collectable or not.

9. TERMINATION OF INSURANCE

- A. **Your** policy will lapse if **you** do not pay **your** premium when due.
- B. **We** may cancel **your** policy by sending written notice to **you** at **your** most recent address in **our** records. **We** will send **you** this notice ten days before **we** cancel **your** policy or at the time required by the law of **your** state of residence. **You** may cancel **your** policy at any time by notifying **us** in writing. If either **you** or **we** cancel **your** policy, **we** will refund any unearned premium on a prorated basis.

10. ASSIGNMENT OR TRANSFER OF POLICY

- A. **You** may not transfer or assign this policy in whole or in part.
- B. **Your** policy will transfer to **your** legal representative or surviving **spouse** upon **your** death.

11. CHANGES AND LIBERALIZATION

- A. This policy contains all the agreements between **you** and **us**. Its terms cannot be changed except by endorsement or rider issued by **us**.
- B. **You** or **your spouse** may request changes to **your** policy. Any change **we** make due to a request by **you** or **your spouse** is binding on all persons who have any interest under **your** policy.
- C. If **we** revise this policy and broaden **your** coverage without charge, **you** will receive the broader coverage as soon as **we** make the revision.
- D. **We** may make changes to **your** policy. If **we** do, **we** will send **you** written notice thirty days before the end of the current policy term or at the time required by the law of **your** state of residence. **You** accept these changes by renewing **your** policy.

12. REVIEW

You may request a review:

- A. If **we** deny **your** claim in whole or in part; or
- B. To ask that **we** remove an Additional Excluded **Condition** listed on the Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate of **your** policy.

You must submit **your** review request in writing indicating the reason for the review. **You** must provide **us** with all medical records from **your veterinarian** relating to any **condition** that is the basis of **your** request. If **your** request for review involves an Additional Excluded **Condition**, **you** must provide **us** with medical records or other documentation from **your veterinarian** demonstrating the **condition** was **cured** at least six months before the date of **your** request. **Chronic conditions** are not eligible for removal. All review decisions are final.

13. SUIT AGAINST US

You may not bring a legal action against **us** unless **you** have complied with all provisions of this policy. **You** must begin any legal action against **us** within one year of **your pet's** first treatment for any **condition** identified in **your** legal action.

14. DECLARATIONS

By accepting this policy, **you** agree that all the statements in **your** application and the declarations are true and that **you** have provided **us** with all material information about **your pet**. **You** agree that this policy and any endorsements or riders issued to **you** is the entire and only agreement between **you** and **us**.

15. FRAUD AND CONCEALMENT

We will void **your** policy from its inception if **we** discover that **you** have misrepresented or omitted any material fact and **we** relied on **your** misrepresentation or omission in issuing this policy to **you**. **We** may deny **your** claim and void **your** policy if **you** conceal material information or make any material misrepresentation in **your** claim.

16. INSTALLMENT PAYMENT SERVICE CHARGE

If **you** elect to pay **your** premium in installments, other than payroll deductions, **we** will charge **you** the installment fee listed on the Declarations Page or Renewal Certificate of **your** policy, per each installment payment.