

Pets can be expensive

Adrian shares some of the costs with having a pet and how he has to manage his finances to make sure his cat stays healthy.

Adrian:

Oh, I manage one way or the other. I just bought a big bag of food. I just joke with people at the Pet Value that it looks like I'm feeding a horse. But the bag of food, well the tax, I got the tax off because they gave me a coupon. But even with that, the total cost for the big bag of food is \$118. Luckily that does feed my cat, dry food for 3 or 4 months, but then I also get tinned food. And it definitely cuts into finances, but that is just something you have to factor in, you just have to, you know, maybe eat less yourself, you know, if you really want to have an animal.

Mike: Are there any supports that you've come across, in terms of finances that would help individuals kind of look, take care of and feed their pets.

Adrian:

No, no, I've never heard of anything. There's so little really, help nowadays that I've known. Probably less than there used to be before the pandemic. And, if you are, I guess if I had the cat and I couldn't afford, or wasn't willing to do anything except give him the cheapest of food, I'd probably try to find another home for him. Because it's not fair. It's like, you know, having a child and feeding it on you know, McDonald's or something. I mean, you just don't do that. So at least I don't. I'd rather cut back a bit on my own food than give my cat garbage to eat. So I just don't do that. And you have to look at your life and see what activities or things you spend money on. And the way I looked at it, I'd say to my friends, well, I figure, you can have one, you know, if you can scrounge up the money, one rather expensive and maybe rather dangerous hobby, and that's it, unless you've got an awful lot of money. So I have one expensive and rather dangerous hobby. And that's it, you know, I can't afford more. It costs me almost nothing for the gym and I have a kayak and that cost me nothing because I got it years ago. So, you know. If you just have one thing that you spend money on, it's not so bad.

Adrian:

I wish I had more money, then I said I could get him a companion. I wish I could afford maybe taking him to the vet more often. But right now, the trouble is you go and he doesn't have any symptoms, he's not sick. But they'd probably find something that they'd say, oh well, maybe you should test for this and test for that. I can't afford all kinds of probably unnecessary tests. And that's how, unfortunately it is. Unless you have a lot of money, not very many people honestly can afford a cat or a dog or anything, maybe a gerbil, I mean, if they're honest about it. But if all the people who really strictly speaking couldn't afford a pet, gave them up, there wouldn't be very many people left with pets I think. And I don't and I just don't think I could make it. I don't think I could survive very well here all by myself with not even one animal. So, you know, I am sacrificing a little bit there as far as the animal goes. Because I am thinking of myself too and I would become so depressed and anxious without an animal that I think it would be very, very bad for my mental health. So I do have one and take care of him the best way that I can.