



SmallDogsParadise.com

Holistic approach to pampering small dogs

Budgeting Tips and Thrifty Ideas

Version 2

Whether you realized it or not, you've been using these tips and ideas during some periods in life.

So why is my 21 ways of budgeting tips and thrifty ideas e-book for then?

That's a very good question!

Now look at the three statements below and see if they fit your bill?

- Sometimes it maybe you're too busy to implement it on a regular basic and to even see the benefits.
- Other time you just never thought it couldn't amount to very much. So you discard the ideas altogether.
- Or maybe you thought you weren't doing justice for your precious darling pooch to low graded stuff.

Believe me, dogs don't know a thing about the different between a \$99 dog collar and a \$9 ones.

This you may ask, "Who on earth buys a \$99 dog collar for their dog to wear?"

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Do Oprah Winfrey, Paris Hilton and Jim Carey ring a bell?

These are just some celebrity folks lavishing on their dogs, but the amazing news is ordinary folks aren't left far behind too.

I confess, I do have a few of them. But my dogs only get to wear them during very special and formal occasions—like wedding ceremonies or big festival sessions. We human dress up for some reasons and why shouldn't our loyal companions deserve that special attention too?

"Hey, I thought you're suppose to help me save cost instead of asking me to emulate the 'richer' folks"

I'm getting there, just hear me out a little bit more. And the story goes like this ...

"Oh you're so rich to have so many dogs or even just one dog!"

"How did you manage to keep up with the trend?"

"What are your special secrets?"

"How did you do it?"

I hear these remarks so often that I don't know how to response but to glee and agree with them that I'm indeed "very rich" concerning I have Seven Angels.

My Special Secret is:

Not to make a fuss over lower graded goods but embrace them and turn on your creative cap.

Strange but it's true. Non-animal lovers view dog owners like us as wealthy folks. But what they lack understanding is how versatile and creative you can be without

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compromising quality goods to inferior goods for our pooches, be it internal or external use.

Further explanation:

What do I mean by internal use? I don't mean poorer quality or inferior dog food. What I really mean is good wholesome natural home-cooked meals prepared either by you or your family members. Read my meal time ideas for further details. You can reduce cost in all areas, but premium dog food and quality time spent with your dogs are no compromise.

Reducing your dog's care costs isn't just about counting pennies. It's an attitude in seeing the value of money. It's a way of life.

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift"

By Abraham Lincoln

You can reduce your dog supplies budget by being willing to improvise and use items that aren't brand new. These aren't superbly new ideas listed below; they're just practical and commonsense ones. Okay, maybe a touch of creative juice involved.

"The best ideas come as jokes.

Let your thinking go wild and be as funny as possible."

By Renée Alexandra

Without further rambling, let's start saving....

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Disclaimer: This report is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical advice or likewise. You are solely responsible for the way you use this information.

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Senior or Aged Dogs (3 tips and/or ideas)

- Orthopaedic bed - Instead of buying an expensive orthopaedic bed for an arthritic dog, make a bed from egg crate form or plastic bread carton crate (you can get it from any supermarkets but don't steal just ask. =) You'll be surprise how generous they can be). Along with the free crate, get several washable blankets and foam from budget stores. Simply lay the foam down and cover with folded blankets. If you've got crafty hands, you can sew a couple of strips at each corner of the blanket and fasten the cushion onto the crate bed. Wola! Now your elderly dog is ready to sink onto his new orthopaedic bed.

Alternatively, you might want to check out the [step by step guide on how to make dog t-shirt bed in 7 minutes](#). This is just the extra comfort for aged dogs.

- Dog ramp—Make a set of steps or use footstools/baby stools to help your dog reach his destination, such as his favorite sleeping chair. If the steps are wooden, tack carpeting to them to prevent him from slipping.
- Dog bowls—Give your dog elevated food and water bowls to keep him from having to bend over to eat. The elevated bowls will help relieves arthritic and aid digestion.

3 ways of making you own elevated dog dish according to the size of your dog:

1. You can opt for footstool if you have small-medium sized dogs.
2. Do-it-yourself wooden box—approximately the height of the shoes box but with wider base.
3. Use those recycle office file tray. You can adjust the height according to your breed by adding or removing each tray.

Grooming (2 tips and/or ideas)

- Clippers and Scissors—Instead of hiring a professional groomer, groom your dog at home or at a self-service pet wash. If you're not comfortable handling motor clipper, use scissors. If you have more than 3 dogs especially those long coated ones, do get a good clipper. Read more on where you can get [durable and reliable clippers](#).
- Grooming Table—Instead of buying a grooming table to groom small dogs, place a rubber mat on top of outdoor bench table for house dwellers. Alternatively, you can groom your dog in the balcony or bathroom using foldable corner table. Just make sure the table has got strong legs and not too small for your dog to make some small movements. A rough guide on the size of the table would be 2 to 2½ times his body size. At least there is room for him/her to sit when the grooming period gets too lengthy.

Grooming your dog in these areas, gives you less worries about the mess you'll make around your home. **Special note:** Once done, don't let the dog run around indoors as there is still hair clinging to his body. Best solution is to give him/her a good rinse afterwards and towel dry.

Bath Time (4 tips and/or ideas)

- Shampoo and conditioners—Buy shampoo, conditioner and flea dip* in gallons, rather than eight-ounce bottles. It's less expensive, ounce for ounce. **Special note:** I usually buy flea and tick powder as they're unlikely to change in colour over a period of few years as compare to the liquid ones. Furthermore it also acts as disinfectant when I clean the doggie kennel or bedding areas. If you have only one dog, then you best option is to get them in commercial pack. Check out some tips on [how to keep dog ticks under control and which online store offers the best price](#).
- Dilute Shampoo—Instead of pouring shampoo directly from a bottle onto the dog; dilute the shampoo into an empty shampoo container or any handheld container with a squirt top. You can start with the portion ratio of 1 to 7 and gradually work around it.
- Apron—Pick up a big waterproof apron at a thrift store when you groom or bathe your dog. I've also seen some dog owners wear those disposal plastic butcher aprons when grooming their dogs. However being an environmentalist, I oppose this idea. Moreover, it looks terrifying to your dog too. He probably thinks you're sending him to slaughter room instead of the bathroom. ☺
- Doggie Jacuzzi—Use a baby tub (if only one small size dog) or children inflatable pool if you have more than 3 dogs. For that one dog, use one to two motor pumps usually used in fish tanks or Feng Shui water fountains. Do supervise this pampering sessions as some dogs may like to chew the rubber tube. Add in a little bubble bath oil for the extra pampering.

Meal time (2 tips and/or ideas)

- Dog Food—Feed your dog a good-quality dry food which is less expensive than canned or semi-moist. Read more on the [dog food that I highly recommend](#) here.
- Food Storage--When buying Kibbles, buy the bigger pack. Say if you usually order 10lbs for one month consumption; order 20lbs instead. Then request the pet store assistant to repack them into smaller packs—approximately 5lbs per pack. (It's a free service what most offline pet stores provide) Use plastic garbage can with tight-fitting lid to keep them fresh. Store the open package into another smaller container.

Dog Treats (1 tip/idea)

- Treats—Make your own dog treats. Dog treat recipes abound, so pick one that sounds yummy and get in the kitchen. You can start wiping delicious one right now on my [dog bread recipes](#) and [dog treat recipes](#).

Dog Bowls (2 tips and/or ideas)

- Food and Water bowls--don't throw away old and faded ceramic dishes of yours. Paint them and use them either for your dog water or food dish. Learn how to make your own [Dog Bowls](#) here.
- Water bowls—those empty ice-cream tubs, recycle them as water dish to use them for outdoors. Even if it is lost, no worries about the value anyway.

Training (1 tip and/or idea)

- Training your dog—Form a neighbourhood puppy training club. If paying for puppy training classes is out of the question, check out a few training books and videos either from libraries or online. Gather up a group of friends and neighbours who have pups. Not only the pups practice obedience lessons, they also become accustomed to other dogs. You may like to read more on [dog training](#) and [behavioral training](#) here. And also don't miss out my regular [book reviews on books about dogs](#).

Fence and Gates (1 tip and/or idea)

- Gates—Don't buy a special pet gate to keep dogs out of certain areas of the house; unless they are on sale. Consider baby gates. They are less expensive and an easy garage sale find too.

Dog Tags and Leash (2 tips and/or ideas)

- Tags—Some companies do offer a slight price break when you order more than one identification tag. Even if you have only one dog, order extra just in case of loss.
- Leash—For short walks around the block, make your own leash if you know the scout knots. I've made close to two dozen of personal handmade dog leashes. I designed them with various materials and colours. My favourite one is the friendship bands, all you need is just extend it to a reasonable length. You can go very creative with this one. Very Chic! At least, you won't be too far away from those [jewelry dog collars](#) I listed here.

Toys (2 tips and/or ideas)

- Toy Basket—Place all dog toys in mini laundry basket or milk carton, especially those plastic ones. They are durable and washable, and not to mention it's also easy access for your tiny dogs.
- Dog Toy—Make your own instant dog toy. Get worn out tennis ball and put it into an old sock. Tie the tight knot at the opening end. Or you can get used baby toys at thrift stores. Just make sure you remove any small particles and disinfect before giving to your dog.

Clothing (1 tip/idea)

- Dog sweaters—You may have a couple good ones for special occasions but what about those cold nights? Instead of buying every designs they offer, make a few on your own. You can pick up old baby sweaters either from thrift shop or from your friend or relative whose child just turned two. Checkout out our dog party supplies for more value for money doggie attire.

Bedding and towels (2 tips and/or ideas)

- Bedding—Save those old bedspread, blankets and sheets. Place in crates to make a comfy den. I also use them on car seats especially during their field trips. Their muddy paws are just too dirty on my leather car seat.
- Towels—Don't discard old beach or bath towels. If they're too big for you tiny pooch, cut them in halves and sew the edges. Use it either as their bath towel or additional comforter during the cool nights.

Health Issue (3 tips and/or ideas)

- Health #1—invest in a good veterinary medical book and follow home care advice. Many minor conditions can be treated at home by an owner. This eliminates the expense of unnecessary veterinary visits. Never substitute a book for good veterinary care, though. [Click here to find what good veterinary medical book I recommend.](#)
- Health #2—Although many of your own first aid items are suitable for dogs, it is preferable to keep a separate kit. Make a pet first-aid kit instead of buying one. Ask your vet what you need, then assemble the items yourself. A rough guide for the basic items are:
 - Round-ended scissors.
 - Stubby-bulb thermometer (should never be shared among family members)
 - Tweezers.
 - Bandages – 5cm to 10 cm
 - Adhesive tape dressing
 - Cotton tips and balls.
 - Old socks.
 - Antiseptic cream and wash
 - Calamine lotion
 - Eye wash and Ear cleanse
 - Medicinal liquid paraffin.You may also want to be kept update on [dog health issues](#) here.
- Health #3—Consider alternative veterinary treatments. While an office visit for a holistic vet may cost the same, treatments such as herbal medicine are usually less expensive than pharmaceuticals. I highly recommend you read some TCM, Traditional Chinese medicine books to be familiar with the

wonderful benefits. You can find some of my recommendation in [books about dog](#). I incorporate the theory into my [dog food recipes](#).

- Make your own Elizabethan collar. A device which you can construct from a plastic bucket. 3 to 4.5 litre size for small dogs. This collar prevents a convalescent dog from scratching its head or ears, pawing a head or eye wound, or turning to lick or chew at his hindquarters.

Methods:

Step 1: with a heavy duty penknife remove the base of the bucket.

Make holes round the bottom, 5 cm apart and 5 cm from the edge.

Step 2: thread a 5cm bandage through the holes, leaving a loop between each pair, large enough to fit the dog's collar.

Step 3: insert the collar through the loops. Place the bucket over the dog's head and fasten the collar comfortably.

Concoction time (2 tips and/or ideas)

- Cleaner #1—Use baking soda to clean up pet messes. It will soak up moisture and eliminate odour. Be sure to use generously. Club soda works well to eliminate odors, too. Some may recommend vinegar but I've to disagree with this. It actually encourages them to do more on that spot. I reckon it must be the strong smell that compels them to want to override it.
- Cleaner #2—Clean and disinfect dog areas and dishes with ordinary bleach and water rather than expensive household cleaners. Be sure to rinse well and let them dry thoroughly before allowing your dog access. If possible sun them. One way to check if you actually got rid of the bleach thoroughly is to rub the surface with your finger, and if it feels slippery then you need to wash them again.

Having said all the above, it doesn't mean you should ward off pet supplies stores and head down to budget stores for all your dog's needs. Sometimes you can get even better deals in pet stores if you shop wisely and be prudent to compare prices and qualities. Remember to get free brochures from pet stores to stay in tune with their sale sessions. I'll be adding more of as days go by. So visit SmallDogsParadises.com as often as you can to reap more benefits for both you and you dogs.

And most importantly don't miss my [reviews on dog supplies](#) be it for dogs or dog lovers' gifts. They are in almost every category very soon. So have fun searching them on our site.

In conclusion, I'm indeed a very rich lady who has Seven Angels showering me with unconditional love everyday "free-of-charge".

Paw'er Love,

Renée Alexandra and Snowball

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PS. Did you realize that I added 7 more tips and ideas to this list? That's my way of saying thanks for reading my e-book. =)

PPS. If you'd like more updates on budgeting tips and thrifty ideas, then come visit our [blog](#) as I post various dog topics almost everyday, at the very least weekdays. Share and have fun!!!

PPPS. If you feel this e-book has benefited you somehow, and you'd like to share it with your doggie friends, please feel free to pass the saving to them. Thanks in advance for doing your friends and myself a favor!

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