

Dogging the Economy Impact of Recession on Rescue Groups

The economy has an impact on everyone including breed rescue groups and animal shelters. A booming, stable, healthy economy benefits animal rescue groups - adoptions increase, people redeem their lost animals and fewer pets are turned in.

When there is inflation, hints of recession, increasing gas prices and people begin losing their homes, rescue groups feel the hurt. Adoptions go down, more people contact us to give up dogs, the number of dogs sitting on death row at shelters increases and just when we need money the most, donations shrink.

With the downturn in the market and looming recession, we anticipate people "dumping" dogs. Cocker Spaniels are not cheap dogs

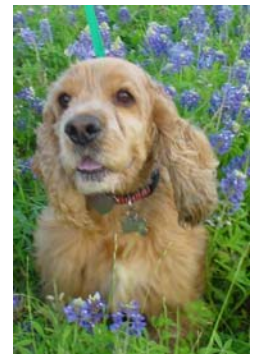
to own. You can easily spend \$100 a month on a Cocker - heartworm and flea preventative, grooming, food and medical care all add up. In a minute we'll provide tips on trimming these costs.

When a family loses its home to foreclosure they may move into an apartment. Some apartments don't allow dogs and those that do often have steep pet deposits. If you can't afford the deposit, what do you do? Hopefully some of these people rehome the dog on their own.

Others will take the dog to a shelter. In April we picked up an adorable 10-month old dumped at a shelter because her family was moving. Did you know that shelters routinely put down older dogs (deemed unadoptable) almost immediately when turned in by their owners?

How can you help? One of the best ways to help is to foster a dog or two. If we had enough foster spots we wouldn't have to spend money boarding dogs. Another excellent way to support us is by making a financial either through PayPal or mail directly to:

Cocker Spaniel Rescue
P.O. Box 7326
The Woodlands, TX 77387



Jolly in bluebonnets.

Cutting Corners in Cocker Care

Heartworm and flea preventative can be purchased over the internet. In U.S. markets you will need a prescription for heartworm preventative. Some vets won't give prescriptions, preferring to sell it themselves. Please be cautious to deal with a reputable company.

The savings from grooming your cocker yourself can be substantial. It really isn't hard. Instruction videos, such as www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lp152R0Sx1Y demonstrate feet trimming.

The obstacle may be the start up cost which can easily run \$400 to purchase quality clippers, blades, oil, scissors, nail clippers, and a grooming table with arm/noose. Alternatively, purchase an arm/

noose to use on a table you already have, a cheap clipper, scissors and nail clippers for about \$150. Buy the best quality equipment you can afford. Trimming your dog monthly can reduce trips to a professional groomer.

Food is one of the last places to cut corners. Buy the best quality food you can afford - your dog's health and shiny coat depend on it. Premium dog food is not essential because there are several less expensive alternatives.

An inexpensive treat - if your dog doesn't have allergies - is animal crackers. A huge bag (which freezes well) is less than \$2.00

Keeping cocker ears clean can also save a lot of money. If your cocker's ears are

healthy you may want to consider using Blue Power, an homeopathic remedy many people swear by. Visit www.itsfortheanimals.com to download the recipe.

Veterinary care has become one of the most expensive areas of dog ownership. There are low cost immunization clinics held in most communities by a Humane Society, SPCA or even your local animal shelter. In some places there are "low cost" vet clinics catering to people who want bare bones vet care.

It is possible to cut a few corners caring for your dog without compromising his health and welfare.

Kismet is fate, fortune, luck or destiny.