

# What's It all Going to Cost?

**Overview:** Understanding that pet guardianship is a reciprocal relationship that requires care and commitment on both sides will help children to learn to value their pets, and all animals, as more than fads or objects of entertainment, thus increasing empathy, compassion, and responsibility.

## Key Questions:

- What kind of items are needed for your pet to be a responsible pet guardian?
- How much does it cost to take care of a pet?
- Will a pet be a good fit for my family?
- Am I able to provide the 5 Freedoms for a pet in my care?
- How might the cost change for an exotic pet, like a bearded dragon? Is it easy to find supplies and a vet that can treat them?

## Big Ideas:

- All living things sense and respond to their environment.
- Development of computational fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

*\*curriculum links listed at the end of this packet*

## Activity:

Have your students come up with a list of items needed to care for their animal in a responsible way. Have them estimate the cost of those items and then use local flyers or websites to research the prices and enter the information into the tables on the activity sheet. Finally, have them compare their findings to the completed tables on the next pages. Have them write a 1-2 sentence conclusion on whether their estimations were close to the actual costs and if anything surprised them.

## Questions for Discussion:

- Were their estimates cheaper, similar, or more expensive than the actual costs?
- Items, such as food, have a wide range of prices. Why might those price differences exist?
- What things should you think about when choosing products for your pet? (ingredients, quality, etc.)
- What are some ways you might reduce the cost without sacrificing the welfare of your pet? (DIY toys or treats, having friends or family pet-sit instead of paying for boarding, adopt a pet rather than buy)

### Extension Questions:

- Are there any additional costs that we didn't consider?
- What about any special situations or emergencies that may occur?
- Is providing food and water enough for a pet? Is it enough for you?

### Modifications:

- Have students round and add up just the whole numbers
- Provide the list of materials students have to find the cost for
- Have your students estimate what they think everything will cost and compare it to tables provided. Do not have them research actual prices.

### Extension Activities:

- Have your students calculate and include taxes in the cost of items.
- Have students calculate how much it would cost for the care of their pet for the pet's entire life time.

## Costs for a Rabbit or Guinea Pig

To keep a domestic rabbit or guinea pig, the initial one-time cost will be approximately:

Adoption fee (includes neuter/spay for rabbit at the BC SPCA)	50.00
Purchase rabbit or guinea pig from a store	50.00
Habitat	215.00
Exercise pen	66.00
Spay/Neuter (neuter is less) <i>only for rabbit</i>	300.00
Litter box	19.00
Dishes, water bottle	15.00
Hay feeder	8.00
Misc. brush, harness, leash	30.00
<b>Total for rabbit or guinea pig adopted at the BC SPCA</b>	<b>\$403.00</b>
<b>Total for purchased female rabbit, getting spayed</b>	<b>\$703.00</b>

The yearly costs will be approximately:

5 lb. bag of pellets	Every month @ \$10	120.00
Fresh veggies & fruit	Every month @ \$40	480.00
Timothy hay (not alfalfa) (6 lb. bag)	Every month @ \$24	288.00
23 litres of Carefresh® litter/bedding	Every month @ \$35	420.00
Blankets	Every month @ \$16	192.00
Annual vet exam	Once per year	110.00
Nail Trim	Every 2 months @ \$10	60.00
Chew toys	Every month @5	60.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1730.00</b>

## Costs for a Hamster, Mouse, or Gerbil

To keep a hamster, mouse, or gerbil, the initial one-time cost will be approximately:

Adoption fee at BC SPCA	10.00
Tank	100.00
Wading pool for exercise	10.00
Dishes	5.00
Water bottle	6.00
Shelters	7.00
Exercise wheel	23.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$161.00</b>

The yearly costs will be approximately:

Bag of pellets	Every month @ \$10	120.00
Fresh fruit and veggies	Every month @ \$20	240.00
Timothy Hay	Every month @ \$24	288.00
23 Litres of Carefresh® bedding	Every month @ \$35	420.00
Annual vet exam	Once a year	80.00
Chew Toys	Every month @ \$10	120.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1268.00</b>

## Costs for a Rat

To keep a rat, the initial one-time cost will be approximately:

Adoption fee at BC SPCA	20.00
Critternation® (tall cage)	270.00
Dishes	5.00
Water bottle	6.00
Shelters	21.00
Exercise wheel	23.00
Hammocks	16.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$338.00</b>

The yearly costs will be approximately:

Bag of rat pellets	Every month @ \$17	204.00
Fresh fruit and veggies	Every month @ \$20	240.00
Blankets and towels (bedding)	Every month @ \$16	192.00
Annual vet exam	Once a year	80.00
Chew Toys	Every month @ \$15	180.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$896.00</b>

These are average basic costs and do not include care for your animal if they need emergency or more medical attention such as dental care, or if you go on vacation.

## Costs for a Cat

To keep a domestic short-haired cat, the initial one-time cost will be approximately:

Adoption Fee (includes microchip & neuter/spay at the BC SPCA)	150.00
Purchasing a cat from pet store	900.00
Spay (female)	320.00
Neuter (male)	210.00
Food and Water dishes	16.00
Collar, leash, and harness	24.00
Cat Tree	80.00
Litter Box and scoop	25.00
Small scratching post	28.00
Travelling crate	60.00
<b>Total for adopted cat from BCSPCA</b>	<b>383.00</b>
<b>Total for purchased female cat from store, getting spayed</b>	<b>\$1453.00</b>
<b>Total for purchased male cat from store, getting neutered</b>	<b>\$1343.00</b>

The yearly costs will be approximately:

Canned wet food	7 cans of cat food every month @ \$2	168.00
Dry cat food	1 bag (7 lb.) every month @\$46	552.00
Treats	1 bag every month @ \$4	48.00
Annual Vet Care	Exam and vaccinations	200.00
Litter	Every month at @ \$17	204.00
Cat Toys	Every month @ \$5	60.00
Cat Boarding	2 weeks @ \$30 /night	420.00
Cat bed	One bed a year	12.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1664.00</b>

These are average basic costs and do not include emergency medical care or dental costs.

## Costs for a Dog

To keep a medium sized, mixed breed dog, the initial one-time cost will be approximately:

Adoption fee (include microchip & spay/neuter at BC SPCA)	400.00
Cost to purchase a dog	\$1000
Spaying (female)	560.00
Neutering (male)	320.00
Food and Water Dishes	14.00
Collar and Leash	33.00
Harness	36.00
Brush and comb	25.00
Crate	135.00
<b>Total adopted from BC SPCA</b>	<b>\$643.00</b>
<b>Total purchased female, getting spayed</b>	<b>\$1803.00</b>
<b>Total purchased male, getting neutered</b>	<b>\$1563.00</b>

The yearly costs will be approximately:

Food (33 lb. bag dry food)	Every month @ \$72	864.00
Treats	Every month @ \$10	120.00
Annual Vet care	Exam and vaccinations (yearly)	200.00
Grooming	Every 4 months @ \$80	320.00
Dog license	Every year	25.00
Vacation (boarding)	2 weeks @ \$40 / night	560.00
Toys (balls, Frisbees, etc.)	Every month @ \$20	240.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2329.00</b>

These are average basic costs and do not include emergency or more medical attention such as dental care, obedience classes, the cost of fencing or a dog bed.

# What's it all going to cost?

It is important to know how much a pet will cost so you are prepared to keep the animal for its entire life!

## Instructions:

First, decide what type of pet you want to adopt. Then circle all the things you will need to buy for them. Is there anything else they need? Remember there are things you will have to buy regularly like food, vaccinations or grooming, and things you will likely only have to buy once like a crate, spay/neuter surgery, etc. Estimate what you think these things will cost in the first set of tables. Then check flyers and online or call a vet to see what the actual cost is and enter it in the second set of tables. Write a conclusion about what you found.

## Pick a Pet:



Hamster



Dog



Cat



Gerbil



Mouse



Rat



Guinea Pig



Rabbit

## Circle everything it needs:



Grooming



cage or x-pen



Fresh fruits and Veggies



Dog License



Hiding space for small animals



Toys



Collar and leash



Treats



Water dish or bottle



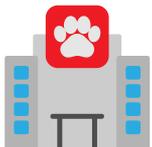
Carrier or crate



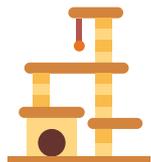
Microchip or Tattoo



Bedding or aspen shaving



Spay or neuter surgery



Scratching post



Canned wet food



Boarding fees (when you go on vacation)



Timothy Hay



Litterbox, scoop and litter



Bag of Dry Food or Pellets



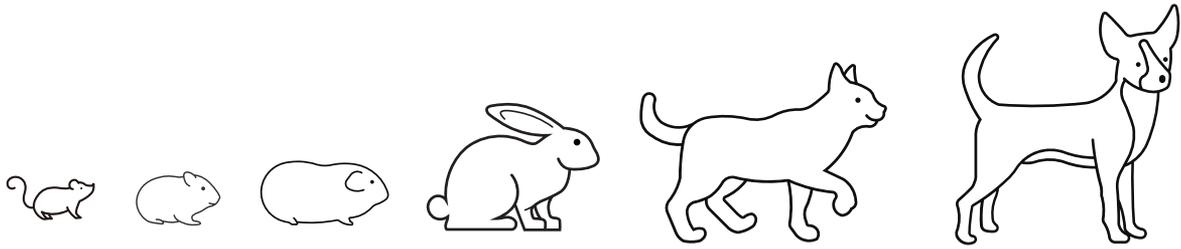
Adoption Fee or cost to purchase



Nail Trim



Yearly Vet Exam and Vaccinations



**Estimated One Time Costs for a \_\_\_\_\_**

One time costs are things you pay for once, like adoption fees or a crate

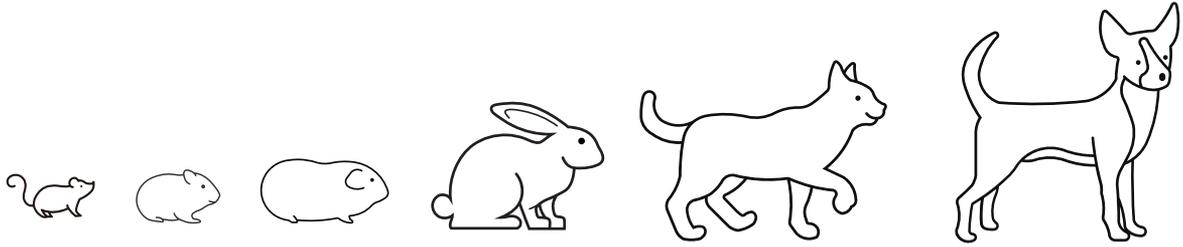
Item/Need	Estimated Cost
<b>Total</b>	

Remember to multiply if you need more than one a year. For example, you'll need to buy a bag of dry food every month for your dog, so it would be the price of one bag x 12

**Estimated Yearly Costs for a \_\_\_\_\_**

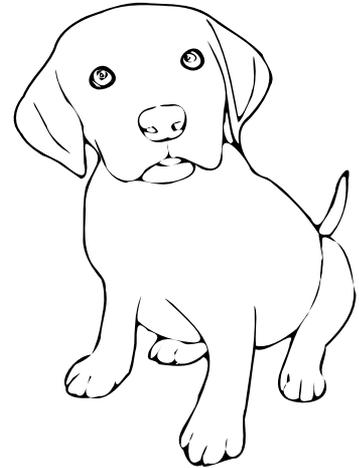
Item/Need	Estimated Cost	Total Cost for Year
<i>example: Dog Food</i>	<i>\$50/bag</i>	<i>\$50 x 12 months = \$600</i>
<b>Total</b>		

**Estimated Grand Total for One Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total One-Time Costs    Total Yearly Costs



**Actual One Time Costs for a \_\_\_\_\_**

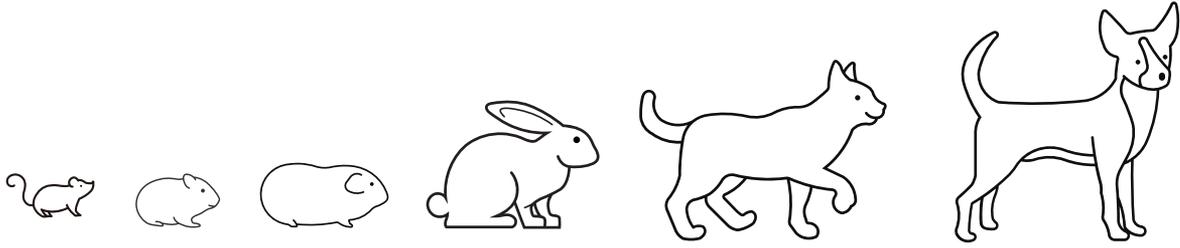
Item/Need	Actual Cost
<b>Total</b>	



**Actual Yearly Costs for a \_\_\_\_\_**

Item/Need	Cost	Total Cost for Year
<b>Total</b>		

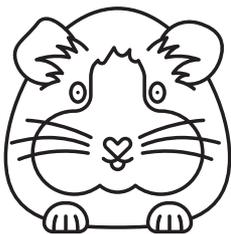
**Actual Grand Total for One Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total One-Time Costs    Total Yearly Costs



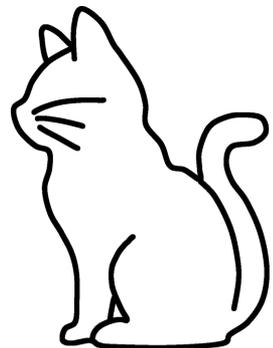
Write a 1-2 sentence conclusion. Was your estimation close or not? Did anything surprise you?


### Bonus Question!

Look up the average lifespan of the pet you chose.  
How much would it cost for your pet over its entire lifetime?



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Curriculum Links

### Curricular Competencies and Content:

#### Science

- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Collect simple data
- Sort and classify data and information using drawings or provided tables
- Use tables, simple bar graphs, or other formats to represent data and show simple patterns and trends
- Compare results with predictions, suggesting possible reasons for findings
- Make simple inferences based on their results and prior knowledge

#### Mathematics

- Develop mental math strategies and abilities to make sense of quantities
- Develop, demonstrate, and apply mathematical understanding through play, inquiry, and problem solving
- Connect mathematical concepts to each other and to other areas and personal interests
- Estimate reasonably

### Core Competencies:

#### Thinking:

- I can think critically about how my personal decisions also affect others and the environment.