

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

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)

What's it all going to cost?

Estimated One Time Costs for a _____

Item/Need	Cost
Total	

Estimated Yearly Costs for a _____

Item/Need	Cost	Total Cost for Year
Total		

What's it all going to cost?

One Time Costs for a _____

Item/Need	Cost
Total	

Yearly Costs for a _____

	Cost	Total Cost for Year
Total		

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

To keep a domestic rabbit the yearly cost will be approximately

5 lb bag of pellets	every months @ \$14	168.00
Fresh veggies & fruit	every month @ \$20	240.00
Timothy hay (not alfalfa)	1 flake every month @ \$5	60.00
23 litres of Care fresh litter/bedding	every month @ \$8	96.00
Annual vet exam	once/year	46.00
Nail Trim	every 2 months @ \$10	50.00
Total		\$660.00

These are average basic costs and do not include care for your rabbit if they need more medical attention, you go on vacation, or the cost of a large enclosure.

One time costs

Adoption fee (includes neuter/spay)at the SPCA	65.00
Habitat/Hutch	75.00
Spay/Neuter (neuter is less)	75.00
Litter box	15.00
Rabbit care book	15.00
Dishes, water bottle	15.00
Misc. Brush, harness, leash	20.00
Total for rabbit adopted at the BC SPCA	\$205.00
Total for purchased rabbit	\$280.00

Costs for a Dog

To keep a medium sized, mixed breed dog, the early cost will be approximately

Food	12 bags dog food (18kg) @ \$45	540.00
Biscuit treats	2 boxes per month @ \$10.00	240.00
Veterinary Care	Yearly Visit – exam and vaccinations	100.00
Nail clipping	every month @ \$10.00	120.00
Grooming	every 4 months @ \$45	135.00
Dog License	every year (spayed or neutered)	35.00
Vacation (boarding)	2 weeks dog care @ \$30/day	420.00
Total		\$1470.00

One Time Costs

Adoption fee (includes tattoo & neuter/spay)at the SPCA	295.00-475.00
Cost to purchase a dog	500.00 -1500.00
Spaying (female) and tattoo	200.00
Neutering (male) and tattoo	125.00
Food and water dishes	30.00
Collar and leash	35.00
Brush and comb	25.00
Toys - balls, Frisbees, etc.	25.00
Crate	65.00
Total adopted from the SPCA	\$475.00 - \$655.00
Total purchased female, unspayed	\$880.00-\$1880.00
Total purchased male, unneutered	\$805.00-\$1805.00

These are average basic costs and do not include emergency medical care, initial vaccinations, obedience classes, the cost of fencing or a dog bed.

Costs for a Cat

To keep a domestic long-haired cat the yearly costs will be approximately

Canned wet food	7 cans of cat food every month @ \$2	\$168.00
Dry cat food	1 bag (3.6kg) every month @ \$20.00	240.00
Cat treats	every month \$3.00	36.00
Veterinary Care	yearly visit - exam and vaccinations	100.00
Litter	1 bag of cat litter every month @ \$12.00	144.00
Nail clipping	every month @ \$5.00	60.00
Cat care Vacation	2 weeks @ \$20.00 per day	280.00
Total		\$1028.00

One time costs:

Adoption fee (includes tattoo & neuter/spay)at the SPCA	145.00
Food and water dishes	15.00
Collar, leash and harness	25.00
Brush and comb	15.00
Litter pan and scoop	20.00
Small scratching post	30.00
Cardboard travelling box	15.00
Toys and miscellaneous	20.00
Total	\$285.00

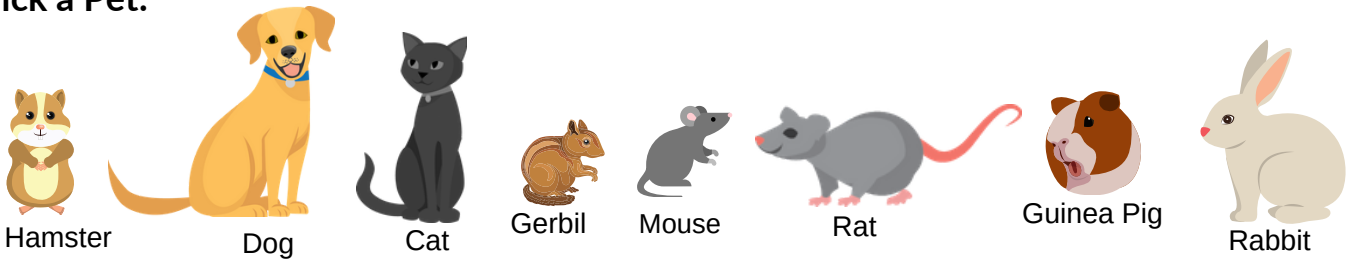
These are average basic costs and do not include emergency medical care, initial vaccinations, the cost of a cat run, or a cat bed.

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 would like to adopt. Then circle all the things that you will need to buy for your pet. Is there anything else they need? Remember there are things that you will have to buy regularly like food, vaccinations, grooming and things that 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.

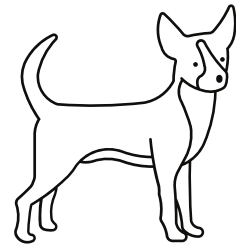
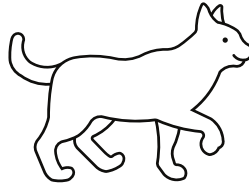
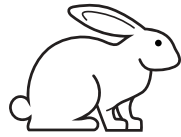
Pick a Pet:



Circle everything it needs:

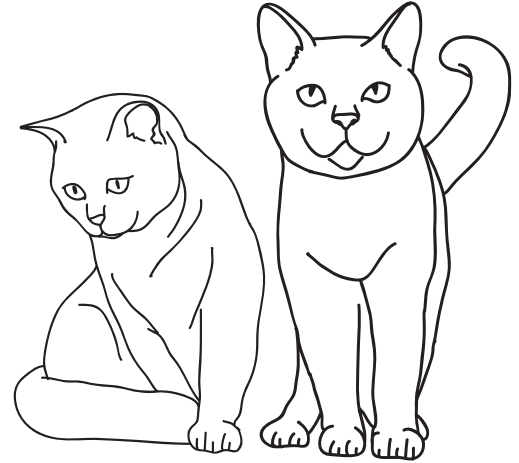


Name: _____



One Time Costs for a _____

Item/Need	Cost
Total	

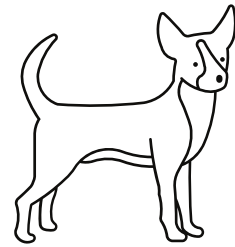
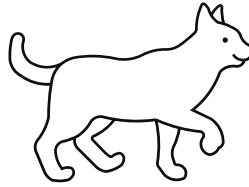
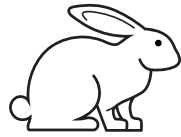


Yearly Costs for a _____

Item/Need	Cost	Total Cost for Year
Total		

Grand Total for One Year: _____ + _____ = _____
Total One Time Costs Total Yearly Costs

Name: _____



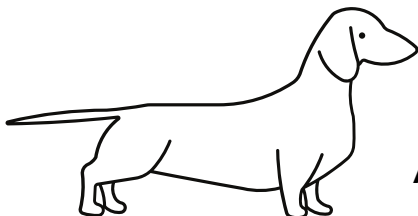
Write a 1-2 sentence conclusion. Was your estimation close or not? Did anything surprise you?



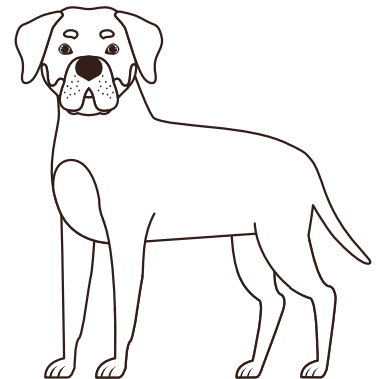
Bonus Question!



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



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.