

How Much Does it Cost to Own a Pet?

You should always consider the costs of having a companion animal. Food and collars are only two of a whole litany of expenses that the average pet owner will incur within a year. The ASPCA wants you to be ready to care for that new companion in all the ways he/she needs. We've compiled a list of expected annual costs for your new friend.

Small Dogs: They may be pocket sized and lovable but they're no small cost. While crate costs and spay/neuter fees are lessened, a smaller dog, like a Yorkshire terrier and Pugs, can still cost nearly \$800 annually.

| Food | Medical | Toys | License | Misc. |
|--------------|---------|-------|----------|--------------|
| \$150 | \$150 | \$50 | \$15 | \$35 |
| Collar | Carrier | Crate | Grooming | Spay/Neuter |
| \$25 | \$30 | \$50 | \$200 | \$75 |
| Total | | | | \$780 |

Medium Dogs: Coming in a close second, medium-sized dogs, like Beagles and Cocker Spaniels, are nearly the most costly pets, fetching up to \$1,115 annually.

| Food | Medical | Toys | License | Misc. |
|--------------|---------|-------|----------|----------------|
| \$250 | \$175 | \$60 | \$15 | \$45 |
| Collar | Carrier | Crate | Grooming | Spay/Neuter |
| \$30 | \$50 | \$90 | \$300 | \$100 |
| Total | | | | \$1,115 |

Large Dogs: Big dogs like Golden Retrievers, Labradors and Dalmatians may have a special place in your heart but get ready to make room for them in your wallet. Obvious expenses like food and crates for large dogs are high and first year total expenses can reach \$1,500.

| Food | Medical | Toys | License | Misc. | Spay/Neuter | Collar | Carrier | Crate | Grooming | Total |
|-------|---------|------|---------|-------|-------------|--------|---------|-------|----------|----------------|
| \$350 | \$200 | \$70 | \$15 | \$65 | \$125 | \$35 | \$80 | \$160 | \$400 | \$1,500 |

Cats can provide warmth and companionship with considerably fewer demands than their canine counterparts. However, every furball comes with a price tag. Total first year costs for a cat can reach upwards of \$640.

| Food | Medical | Litter | Toys | Misc. | Spay/Neuter | Litter Box | Collar | Carrier | Total |
|-------|---------|--------|------|-------|-------------|------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| \$120 | \$150 | \$150 | \$50 | \$30 | \$75 | \$25 | \$10 | \$30 | \$640 |

Rabbits may require even less attention than felines but costs for a floppy eared friend can exceed \$885 for the first year. Where a rabbit may not require walking, litter costs for your pet can more than double that of cats.

| Food | Medical | Litter | Toys | Misc. | Spay/Neuter | Litter Box | Cage | Carrier | Total |
|-------|---------|--------|------|-------|-------------|------------|------|---------|--------------|
| \$110 | \$125 | \$400 | \$25 | \$15 | \$75 | \$25 | \$80 | \$30 | \$885 |

Guinea Pigs don't even need to be spayed, but litter costs for these furballs are as high as for that of a rabbit. Costs for a guinea pig can exceed \$645 in the first year.

| Food | Medical | Litter | Toys | Misc. | Cage | Total |
|------|---------|--------|------|-------|------|--------------|
| \$75 | \$50 | \$400 | \$25 | \$15 | \$80 | \$645 |