

APPROXIMATE ANNUAL PET CARE COSTS* 2000

DOGS: First Year	TOTAL \$980
Food \$400 Distemper/parvovirus inoc. (4) \$60 Rabies inoculation (one year) \$20 Worm test and worming \$25 Spaying or neutering** \$65 Heartworm test/preventative \$50 Licensing \$10 Accessories (leash/collar/toys/etc.) \$100 Emergency veterinary care \$250	
Each Succeeding Year	TOTAL \$825
Food \$400 Distemper/parvovirus inoc. (booster) \$15 Rabies inoc. (1-yr., then 3-yr. booster) \$15 Worm recheck \$10 Heartworm test/preventative \$50 Licensing \$10 Accessories (leash/collar/toys/etc.) \$75 Emergency veterinary care \$250	
CATS: First Year	TOTAL \$673
Food \$280 Distemper inoculations \$30 Rabies inoculation (one year) \$20 Worm test and worming \$25 Spaying or neutering** \$48 Leukemia test and inoculation \$45 Accessories (collar/toys/etc.) \$75 Emergency veterinary care \$150	
Each Succeeding Year	TOTAL \$540
Food \$280 Distemper (booster) \$15 Rabies inoc. (1-yr., then 3-yr. booster) \$15 Worm recheck \$10 Leukemia inoc. \$20 Accessories (collar/toys/etc.) \$50 Emergency veterinary care \$150	

*Cost may vary by veterinarian

**Average rate at a participating veterinarian

The above costs do not include any adoption fee or the cost of purchasing the animal. Assuming the average life span of a dog or cat is ten years, the estimated cost of owning a dog for its lifetime is over \$8,400 and the estimated cost of owning a cat for its lifetime is over \$5,500.

Owning a pet can be a wonderful experience; however, it requires responsibility and commitment from owners. Understanding these responsibilities is essential and acquiring a pet should always be a family decision. Research the types of pets and different breed characteristics (You should also familiarize yourself with the multiple breed characteristics in mixed breeds) to ensure that your new pet will fit in with your lifestyle. It is extremely important to think about whether you are willing to commit the time, effort and expense required for its proper care before you get your pet, not after it is in your home!
