The costs of owning a cat

Below is a list of costs you will need to think about before deciding to become a pet owner. The first part looks at the starting cost of adoption or purchase and setting your pet up for success. The second part looks at the costs that come up every year.

Cats can live to up to 15-20 years.

| Starting costs (First year) | Cost guide | Actual cost |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Purchase/adoption: | \$0-\$2000 | |
| Collar and bell: | \$10-\$50 | |
| Name tag: | \$5-\$20 | |
| Food and bowls: | \$600-\$1000 every year | |
| | depending on quality | |
| Carrier and bed: | \$50-\$200 | |
| Council registration: | \$0-\$100 (desexed or | |
| | undesexed) | |
| Tray and litter: | \$130-\$250 | |
| Desexing: | \$120-\$300 (male or female) | |
| Flea and worming | \$100-\$200 | |
| treatments: | | |
| Grooming: | \$50 depending on breed | |
| | and needs | |
| Microchipping: | \$40-\$60 | |
| Kitten vaccinations: | \$170-\$200 | |
| Scratching post: | \$50-\$200 | |
| Toys and treats: | \$50 minimum | |
| Total for first year: | \$1,375-\$4,680 | |
| | | |
| Ongoing costs (Every year) | | |
| Annual vaccinations and | \$100-\$200 | |
| veterinary check: | | |
| Flea and worming | \$100-\$200 | |
| treatments: | | |
| Food: | \$600-\$1000 | |
| Grooming: | \$50 | |
| Toys and treats: | \$50 minimum | |
| Litter: | \$150 minimum | |
| | | |
| Total for second year: | \$1,050-1,650 minimum | |

Please note, all prices are a guide only.

This table does not include emergency vet treatments for sick or injured pets.

When you adopt a cat from an animal shelter, the cost of desexing, first vaccinations and microchipping are included as done before adoption.