

The costs of owning a small pet

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 initial cost of adoption or purchase and setting your pet up for success. The second part looks at the costs that come up every year.

The costs of care for different animals may be much higher or much lower.

Think about cost for every type of animal you would like to keep.

Starting costs (First year)	Cost guide	Actual cost
Purchase/adoption:	\$0-\$1000	
Food and bowls:	\$400-\$600 every year depending on quality	
Carrier or cage	\$50-\$300	
Tray and litter:	\$100-\$200	
Bedding:	\$100-\$200	
Desexing:	\$100-\$300	
Flea and worming treatments:	\$100-\$200	
Grooming:	\$50 depending on breed and needs	
Vaccinations:	\$100-\$200	
Toys and treats:	\$30 minimum	
Total for first year:	\$1,030-\$3,080	
Ongoing costs (Every year)		
Annual vaccinations and veterinary check:	\$100-\$200	
Flea and worming treatments:	\$100-\$200	
Food:	\$400-\$600	
Grooming:	\$50	
Toys and treats:	\$30 minimum	
Litter/bedding:	\$200 minimum	
Total for second year:	\$880-\$1,280 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 pet from an animal shelter, the cost of desexing, first vaccinations and microchipping are included as done before adoption.