

# HEALTH & WELFARE

## THE COST OF OWNING A DOG OR CAT IN 2013

Bringing a new puppy or kitten into your household is an exciting and rewarding experience, one that will provide endless hours of laughter, fun and unconditional love. Along with the joy and responsibility of owning a dog or cat come the expenses. Taking stock of the cost of pet ownership will ensure you are prepared to care for your new pet, while avoiding unnecessary surprises. From purchasing your pet's bedding to their first exam and beyond, the following article brought to you by Pets Plus Us covers it all. The tables outlined here are an approximation of the fees and expenses pet owners can expect to incur during the first year of a puppy or kitten's life, and as they mature.

### IMPORTANT

The veterinary care fees shown are based on the 2013 Ontario Suggested Fee Guide for Small Animal Procedures (Source: Ontario Veterinary Medical Association in partnership with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association). Most of the treatment costs listed are based on preventive care and common procedures (e.g., spays and neuters).

We have also included the yearly costs of pet insurance based on a plan that covers \$2,500 of the expenses for all accidents and illness. The premiums listed include one year of coverage and any administrative fees that may apply. Also included is an estimate for the cost of annual vaccines for both an adult dog and cat. Vaccinations may vary due to the age and health status of your pet, as well as exposure conditions and immune status. Speak with your veterinarian, who can advise you about what vaccinations are recommended for your pet.

#### Taxes are not included.

No financial allowances have been made for professional grooming, due to the variances in grooming requirements. If a dog needs to be groomed outside the home, it can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$200 per visit, depending on the frequency of grooming, breed, condition of the pet and cut requested.

Food costs are based on a premium diet, generally recommended to reduce health complications.

While the budgets shown are based on a premium diet, there are certainly less expensive foods available. Consult your veterinarian if you need guidance in choosing the most appropriate food for your pet.

Many of the procedures listed above are also accompanied by future financial benefits. The municipal licensing fees shown here are based on altered dogs and cats. For pets that haven't been spayed or neutered, licensing fees are generally at least double those for licensing an altered pet. For example, licensing an unaltered dog in Toronto for ten years costs \$350 more than licensing a neutered dog. In addition, several

pet-related services and products (e.g., pet insurance) offer discounts for pets that have been micro-chipped.

While these budgets are only estimates, they still make clear the significant financial commitment necessary to care for a dog or cat.

### Annual Cost of Caring for a Forty-Pound Adult Dog

Annual Vaccines*	\$137.50
Annual Fecal Exam	\$36.10
Annual Wellness Profile (Includes Heartworm Test)	\$95.80
Heartworm/Flea Prevention	\$159.10
Professional Dental Care	\$407.00
Food	\$619.43
Pet Insurance	\$538.56
Annual Municipal Pet Licence	\$25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,018.49</b>

### Annual Cost of Caring for a Ten-Pound Adult Cat

Annual Vaccines*	\$137.50
Annual Fecal Exam	\$36.10 (may not be necessary for an indoor cat)
Annual Wellness Profile	\$95.80
Flea Prevention	\$99.60 (may not be necessary for an indoor cat)
Professional Dental Care	\$407.00
Litter	\$101.12
Food	\$288.96
Pet Insurance	\$302.76
Annual Municipal Pet Licence	\$15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,483.84</b>

\*Vaccination timelines can vary, and some vaccines may not be required on an annual basis. Speak with your veterinarian about what vaccinations are appropriate for your dog or cat.

# FINANCES



## First Year of Kitten Ownership

Kitten Vaccine Series	\$412.50
Fecal Exam	\$36.10
De-worming Medication	\$37.30
Flea Prevention	\$99.60
Microchip Identification	\$73.10
Spay/Neuter	\$547.10/\$447.20
Food	\$252.00
Pet Insurance	\$302.76
Collar	\$8.99
Bowls	\$14.00
Kennel	\$61.87
Litter box	\$23.42
Litter	\$52.30
Bed	\$53.35
Annual Municipal Pet Licence	\$15.00
<b>Total</b>	Female: 1,989.39 Male: 1,889.49

## First Year of Puppy Ownership

Puppy Vaccine Series	\$412.50
Fecal Exam	\$36.10
De-worming Medication	\$37.30
Heartworm/Flea Prevention	\$159.10
Microchip Identification	\$73.10
Spay/Neuter	\$626.20/\$571.10
Obedience Classes	\$286.00
Food	\$504.00
Pet Insurance	\$538.56
Leash and Collar	\$28.64
Bowls	\$24.00
Kennel	\$104.13
Rawhides/Chew Toys	\$54.66
Bed	\$91.10
Annual Municipal Pet Licence	\$25.00
<b>Total</b>	Female: \$3,000.39 Male: \$2,945.29