

# FIFEL, FIDO &

## The Cost of Owning a Dog or Cat in 2006

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**IT'S NO SECRET** that there are many costs associated with cat or dog ownership. However, since most pet owners experience those expenses throughout the year, it can be difficult to determine exactly how much money is spent on one's pet during a typical year.

For those who wonder exactly how expensive it is to own a pet these days, the following tables provide estimates of expenses accumulated to properly care for a dog or cat during the course of one year, and the cost of a new puppy or kitten in its first year of life.

### **IMPORTANT**

The veterinary care fees shown are based on OVM's 2006 Suggested Fee Guide. Most of the treatment costs listed are based on preventative care.

We have also included the annual cost of pet insurance. The costs shown are based on an insurance plan that covers 80% of the expense for most accidents and a wide variety of illnesses. The premiums listed include one year of coverage and any administration charges that may apply.

Calculations for food are based on a premium diet generally recommended to minimize health difficulties.

Taxes are also included.



# & FINANCES

## Annual Cost to Care for an Adult Forty-Pound Dog

Annual Vaccines	\$ 89.25
Annual Fecal Exam	\$ 29.57
Flea Prevention	\$ 61.50
Annual Heartworm Test	\$ 48.97
Heartworm Prevention	\$ 51.25
Professional Dental Care*	\$ 412.59
Food	\$ 487.90
Gift	\$ 34.50
Pet Insurance	\$ 435.00
Annual Licence	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1675.53</b>

\*May only be required once every two years.

## Annual Cost to Care for an Adult Ten-Pound Cat

Annual Vaccines	\$ 89.25
Annual Fecal Exam	\$ 29.57 (may not be necessary for indoor cats)
Flea Prevention	\$ 61.50 (may not be necessary for indoor cats)
Professional Dental Care*	\$ 412.59
Litter	\$ 86.72
Food	\$ 292.90
Gift	\$ 34.50
Pet Insurance	\$ 270.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1277.03 for an outdoor cat</b> <b>\$ 1185.96 for an indoor cat</b>

\*May only be required once every two years.

## Cost of Puppy Ownership

Puppy Vaccine Series	\$ 293.51
Fecal Exam	\$ 29.57
De-worming Medication	\$ 22.37
Flea Prevention	\$ 61.51
Heartworm Prevention	\$ 51.26
Microchip Identification	\$ 61.27
Spay/Neuter	\$ 307.08 / \$261.50
Socialization Classes	\$ 94.31
Obedience Classes	\$ 143.75
Food	\$ 518.67
Gift	\$ 34.50
Pet Insurance	\$ 435.00
Leash and Collar	\$ 22.40
Bowls	\$ 16.51
Kennel	\$ 92.00
Rawhides/ Chew Toys	\$ 48.30
Bed	\$ 80.49
Dog Licence	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2337.50 – Female</b> <b>\$ 2291.92 – Male</b>

## Cost of Kitten Ownership

Kitten Vaccine Series	\$ 293.51
Fecal Exam	\$ 29.57
De-worming Medication	\$ 22.37
Flea Prevention	\$ 61.51
Microchip Identification	\$ 61.27
Spay/Neuter	\$ 241.57 / \$158.76
Food	\$ 328.23
Gift	\$ 34.50
Pet Insurance	\$ 270.00
Collar	\$ 6.84
Bowls	\$ 12.14
Kennel	\$ 58.00
Litter Box	\$ 20.69
Bed	\$ 46.21
Litter	\$ 84.39
Total	\$ 1570.80 – Female \$ 1487.99 – Male
De-clawing adds approx. \$226.73 to the cost	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1797.53 – Female</b> <b>\$ 1714.72 – Male</b>

No financial allowances have been made for professional grooming. If a dog needs to be groomed outside of the home, planning to spend an additional \$100.00 to

\$160.00 would be reasonable, depending on the frequency and the breed of dog.



With any cat or dog, food is often the most expensive necessity. While this budget is based on a premium diet, less costly foods can certainly be selected. However, a premium diet can often save pet owners money in the long run, as it assists in preventing many health problems.



While these budgets are only estimates, they still make clear the significant financial commitment necessary to care for a cat or dog. Today's pet owners are willing to set aside sizable portions of their income to ensure their pets receive proper care.