

Cost of Pet Ownership

Let's be real: owning a pet comes with a financial commitment that can sometimes catch you off guard. It's not always easy to pin down exactly how much you'll be spending, so let's break it down together.

To give you a clearer picture, we've created a handy overview of the average annual and lifetime costs for various pets. Just a heads up, though—these figures don't cover veterinary expenses for illnesses or injuries, so keep that in mind!

Now, the first year of welcoming a furry (or scaly or feathery) friend into your home tends to be the priciest. Why? Well, you've got the initial purchase or adoption fee, plus essential costs like vaccinations, microchipping, and the spaying or neutering procedure. And don't forget all the gear you'll need—food bowls, beds, leashes, toys—you name it!



Once you get past that first year, there are ongoing expenses to consider. These include regular booster vaccinations, deworming treatments, and flea and tick preventatives. You'll also need to factor in grooming, food, pet insurance, and perhaps even pet care services when you go on vacation.

And let's be honest, unexpected costs can pop up at any time. Your pet could get sick or have an accident, which can lead to hefty vet bills. Plus, as pets age, they often develop age-related issues like arthritis, kidney problems, or dental disease, adding to those ongoing expenses. Just a little reminder: the cost of pet insurance usually goes up as your pet gets older, too.

In a nutshell, while the joy and companionship a pet brings is priceless, it's wise to prepare for the financial responsibilities that come with them!

Animal	Average annual costs (£)		Average lifespan costs (£)	Note
	Upfront (the first year)	Ongoing cost		
Dog	1,400 – 4,000 dependent on purchase cost	550 (small) 1,250 (medium) 2,000 (large)	9,000 (small) 20,000 (medium) 30,000 (large) (lifespan = 14yr)	Ongoing and life-time costs depends on the dog size
Cat	1,400	650	10,000 - 12,000 (lifespan = 14yr)	
Rabbit	750	500	5,000 – 6,000 (lifespan = 10yr)	
Guinea Pig	350	250	1,800 – 2,000 (lifespan = 6yr)	
Hamster / Rat / Gerbil	250	150	450 – 600 (lifespan = 3yr)	
Bird (finches to parrots)	250 – 1,400	50 – 500	600 – 25,000 (finch lifespan = 6yr) (parrot lifespan = 50yr)	Depending on purchase cost, lifespan, size and diet
Reptile (small e.g. bearded dragon)	500 - 1,300	250 – 1,000	2,500 – 9,000 (lifespan = 10yr)	
Goldfish	175	15	325 (lifespan = 10yr)	