

## Cost of Pet Ownership

It is well known that owning and caring for a pet comes with a financial cost, however, often it is unclear exactly what those costs can be. The following table outlines the average annual and lifetime costs for a variety of pets. Please note the below costs do not include veterinary treatment for injury or illness.

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

It is generally accepted that the first year of pet ownership can be the most expensive because of the purchase cost, vaccination course, microchipping, neutering and equipment purchases. Ongoing costs include booster vaccinations, worming, flea & tick treatments, feeding, grooming, insurance and holiday care.

There is always the potential for unexpected costs caused by injury or illness. Older animals tend to suffer with age-related conditions such as arthritis, kidney and dental disease which adds to the cost of ownership in a pet's old age.

These costs were compiled from studies in the UK, US and Canada and therefore may not fully represent the costs in Guernsey.

