

GETTING A NEW CAT OR DOG? DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

Before you do, consider the following:

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- Don't buy or adopt a pet just because it's cute.
- Check with your body corporate or landlord if you are allowed to have a pet.
- Check local laws to see how many pets you are allowed for the animal.
- Ensure you have adequate space and fencing
- Check out different breeds, and find the right pet to suit your lifestyle.
- Are you totally committed to caring for your new pet? **Remember** pets are for life!
- Do you have enough time to properly feed, exercise, care and clean up after your pet?
- Will your new pet get along with your existing pets?
- Check your finances, and make sure you are able to afford the ongoing costs.

Costs for an average dog (for the first year)*		Costs for a cat (for the first year)*	
Food	\$1,000	Food	\$600
Desexing	\$200	Desexing	\$100
Microchipping	\$45	Microchipping	\$45
Collar, lead and ID tag	\$25	Elasticised Collar and ID tag	\$15
Registration	\$27	Immunisation	\$60
Immunisation	\$70	Litter tray & one year's supply of litter	\$260
Tick prevention	\$50	Water bowl and feed bowl	\$20
Other health expenses	\$250	Grooming brush and comb	\$10
Water bowl and feed bowl	\$20	Scratching post	\$50
Dog bed and toys	\$50	Outdoor enclosures/cat safe fencing	from \$200
Grooming aids and Dog Shampoo	\$50	Heartworm, flea, general worm prevention	\$180
Socialisation and obedience classes	\$100		
Heartworm, flea, general worm prevention	\$180		
Basic Care total excluding purchase price, medical emergencies and extras	\$1,967 (\$38 p/week)	Basic Care total excluding purchase price, medical emergencies and extras	\$1,540 (\$30 p/week)
Basic costs for subsequent years		Basic costs for subsequent years †	
Total excluding medical emergencies and insurance	\$1,683 (\$32 p/week)	Total excluding medical emergencies and insurance	\$1,090 (\$21 p/week)

* Costs are approximates only

† State legislation imposes cat registration to commence from 1 July 2009

Remember, animals from a shelter are great value as they are already health checked, desexed, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed – up to date.

Sharing your life with an animal has great benefits and can bring great joy. Many of the animals that come to the Pound, RSPCA and AWL shelters are there because their owners can no longer look after them.

Animals that are offered for adoption by shelters make fantastic pets.

When you adopt from the **RSPCA** or **AWL**, you are supporting an animal charity and also helping to reduce the number of unwanted animals in our community.

For more information:



www.awlqld.com.au



www.rspca.org.au



www.ipswich.qld.gov.au

