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# Cost of Owning a Cat

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We all know cats need to eat, but they also need annual, routine medical care. The reality of having a pet is that you are the guardian of that dependent animal. You are responsible for the cost of your cat's needs over its lifetime (the average is 10-18 years). Please do not adopt a pet if you cannot realistically afford to take care of it and certainly do not adopt multiple animals if caring for them will put a strain on your finances.

**FOOD & LITTER:** Cats need to eat commercial cat food. Cats with medical conditions that require a special diet will cost more to feed. Cats also require kitty litter. Treats and toys are recommended for a happy, well adjusted kitty.

- ✓ **\$25-50 a month**

**MEDICAL:** Routine medical care of an indoor cat would include a physical and vaccinations.

- ✓ **\$30-\$60 a year** - physical
- ✓ **\$30-\$80 a year** - vaccines

Outdoor cats would also need flea and Heartworm preventatives, as well as routine worming for parasites. Outdoor cats are also at risk for needing more medical care for fighting and contagious diseases. Additional annual medical needs for an outdoor cat:

- ✓ **\$30-\$50 a year** - Heartworm test
- ✓ **\$5-\$15 a month** - Heartworm preventative
- ✓ **\$12-\$45 a year** - flea preventative
- ✓ **\$15-\$30 a year** - fecal test

**Total Annual Costs for an INDOOR Cat:**

**\$360-\$500 a year**

**Total Annual Costs for an OUTDOOR Cat:**

**\$475-\$700 a year**

(If your cat were to get sick, of course, the cost would be much higher. Your outdoor cat has an increased risk of injury and illness.)