



Congratulations on Your Adoption!

Welcome to pet ownership! Whether you're a veteran pet owner, or are brand new to the world of dogs and cats, this guide is meant to be a quick resource for your adopted furry friend. If you have questions that aren't answered in this packet, please feel welcome to call our shelter and speak with a staff member. We're here to help, and want the transition for you and your pet to go as smoothly as possible!

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Your Shelter Pet:

Animals that are adopted from the City of Saginaw Animal Shelter come from a variety of backgrounds.

STRAYS:

Often, they were strays brought to the shelter. A stray animal is a dog or cat found roaming, and for which the owner hasn't been located. All stray animals that come to the shelter are checked for owner ID information (either by tags on the collar or by scanning for a microchip). Every attempt is made to contact the owner, if that information is available. The animals are held for 3 business days to allow the original owner to find and reclaim them. On the 4th day, healthy, friendly animals are placed for adoption.

With stray animals, we usually do not know any medical or other history on them. Our knowledge of these pets are based on the time they're here in the shelter, and our interactions with them. During this time, we observe them for any health issues and get a feel for their level of training and personality type.

We may not be able to know for sure whether stray dogs are house trained, leash trained, good with all other animals, etc. Part of adopting a stray animal is understanding that they might need some training. You may get lucky and get a perfectly trained pet, or you may get a dog that doesn't understand yet how to potty where you want them to. That's normal, and all part of the adventure!

OWNER RELEASE:

Your new pet may also have been an Owner Release. These are dogs and cats which, for various reasons, are given to the shelter by their owners. Much of the time, the owner can no longer care for them, perhaps due to financial circumstances, a necessary move, or other family changes. In these cases, we may have more information about their history and personality.

Remember that any information provided by the owner is based on how that pet acted with them, in their home environment. Pets may act differently in new environments, with new people, and in stressful situations, so it's a good idea to keep a close eye on them and not expect too much of them at first. They'll need time to adjust.



Visit a Veterinarian:

Because shelter animals come from so many backgrounds, you should always plan to take your new pet to a veterinarian for a checkup and other medical needs.

What your pet already has:

All dogs which come in to the shelter are given two booster vaccines immediately. The first is called a 1-DAPPV. The 1-DAPPV is a combination vaccine which protects against Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus. The second is called KC, and is a preventative against Bordetella (more commonly called “Kennel Cough”).

Additionally, Dogs *and* Cats are given a worming medication called Pyrantel Pamoate to treat Hookworms and Roundworms.

What you are REQUIRED to get for your pet:

When you adopt, you are required by law to have your new pet sterilized (spayed or neutered to prevent pregnancy), and to get a rabies vaccination.

The City of Saginaw Animal Shelter requires that the Rabies Vaccination is given within **5 business days** from the date of adoption.

We also require that the Sterilization (Spay/Neuter) be completed within **30 days** from the date of adoption.

Your adoption contract (which you will receive a copy of) will show the specific deadlines for you to complete these needs, and *provide proof of completion to the shelter*. We do follow up on this, and citations are a possibility if these requirements are not met, so please make a note for your fridge!

Some animals may be too young to have the Rabies Vaccination or the Sterilization within the above times. When that is the case, staff will change your deadlines to be appropriate to your pet’s age restrictions. Be sure to check your adoption contract for your deadline.

What is recommended for your new pet?

Any time you adopt a new pet, you should plan to go to a veterinarian for a general examination. This is a good chance for you to take care of several things all at once:

1. You can start a relationship with a veterinarian, if you don’t already have one.
2. You can get that rabies vaccination, which is one of your requirements as an adopter.
3. Your veterinarian can verify the health, age, and sterilization status (it can be tough to tell in females) of your new pet!



Your veterinarian may recommend any of the following treatments for a new pet:

1. Heartworm testing, to make sure your pet doesn't have heartworms.
2. Heartworm pills, to prevent heartworms.
3. Fecal Test, to make sure your pet doesn't have any internal parasites like tapeworms.
4. Booster core vaccines (if due or needed). These vaccines prevent more common but potentially deadly illnesses for dogs and cats.
5. Microchipping, to help return your pet to you should he/she ever become lost. This is HIGHLY recommended!!



Congratulations on the Adoption of your Pet!

As an extra bonus, Chisholm Ridge Pet Hospital would like to offer you a

FREE PET EXAM!

Chisholm Ridge Pet Hospital

1100 N. Blue Mound Rd #160 * Saginaw, TX 76131

817-234-9919

www.crPetHospital.com

The doctor's exam will cover the following systems:

- * Skin and coat
- * Eyes, ears, nose, and throat
- * Teeth and gums
- * Heart and lungs
- * Musculoskeletal
- * Urinary
- * Central Nervous Systems
- * Gastrointestinal

Chisholm Ridge has generously offered to answer any questions you may have regarding nutrition, housetraining, routine preventative care, and flea and tick control, as well as many other tips on how to best care for your new family member!

This service (regular value of \$43.00) is absolutely **FREE** within **10 DAYS** of adoption, as long as you:

- CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
- BRING THE ADOPTION PAPERWORK WITH YOU TO THE APPOINTMENT

You will be able to discuss with the veterinary staff the costs of any recommended vaccines and routine tests, such as an intestinal parasite check, viral tests, or heartworm test.

Call them at 817-234-9919 for more details or to schedule your new pet's appointment!

Let them help you give your pet a fresh, healthy start!



FREE FIRST EXAM*

Valid within
14 days of
adoption
from a local
shelter.

Get to know our professional, friendly team with a “Welcome”
FREE FIRST WELLNESS EXAM at our convenient location!

Free first exam includes:

- Status check on weight, nutrition and general health
- Dental check
- Vaccination overview



VCA Saginaw Animal Hospital
817 North Saginaw Boulevard, Saginaw, TX 76179
817-232-8193



VCA^{saginaw}.com



FREE FIRST WELLNESS EXAM

Valid 30 days from Adoption with Adoption Paperwork

Congratulations on your new family member! We are excited to meet them! Call Today to schedule your pet's Wellness Exam, we have two convenient locations.

Boat Club Road Animal Hospital

817-236-2000

9635 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth TX 76179

Little Leaf Animal Hospital

817-632-0333

10024 Blue Mound, Fort Worth TX 76131





Summerfields Animal Hospital

4536 North Tarrant Pkwy

Ft Worth Tx 76244

817-485-8511

Congratulations on your new pet, as a courtesy the following vet has agreed to match the price of sterilizations and vaccinations as set by the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection. If you choose to use this vet please let a staff member know. An appointment will be made for your pet. The cost of the procedure will be paid up front to Animal Services, on the day of your appointment the pet will be transported to the clinic by an Animal Services staff member and you will be required to pick your pet up from the vet, so that the vet may discuss after care instructions.

The cost of adoptions will be \$20.00 plus the cost of the sterilization and vaccinations. Depending on the weight of the animal being adopted; refer to the prices below.

Dog Sterilization

Male

Under 50 lbs	\$50.00
50-80 lbs	\$60.00
80-100 lbs	\$80.00
Over 100 lbs	\$100.00

Female

Under 50 lbs	\$50.00
50-80 lbs	\$55.00
Over 80 lbs	\$80.00
Over 100 lbs	\$100.00

*This price includes an E-collar

Cat Sterilization

Male	\$30.00	Female	\$40.00
Declaw	\$75.00		

(Front paws only. Must be under 6 months old & 6 lbs and done in conjunction with sterilization)

Dog Vaccinations

Rabies	\$5.00
DHPP	\$10.00
Bordetella	\$10.00
Heartworm Test	\$20.00

General Dewormer	\$5.00
Droncit	\$10.00

Cat Vaccinations

Rabies	\$5.00
FELV	\$10.00
FVRCP	\$10.00
FELV/FIV Test	\$20.00



Fort Worth Low Cost Spay & Neuter

2400 Westport Pkwy Suite 100 Ft Worth, TX 76177

www.texasforthem.org

817-837-4500

PROCEDURES

By Appointment Only

Spay (Female)

Cat	\$45
Dog <50 lbs	\$55
Dog 50-80lbs	\$65
Dog 80-100lbs	\$85
Rabbit	\$55

Neuter (Male)

Cat	\$35
Dog <50lbs	\$55
Dog 50-80lbs	\$65
Dog 80-100lbs	\$85
Rabbit	\$45

Pet Dentals

Stage 1 Teeth Cleaning	\$100
Minor tooth extraction	\$10
Major tooth extraction	\$20

Additional Fees:

Pain Medication	\$15	In heat	\$10
Antibiotics	\$15	Male Cryptorchid	\$20-\$40
E-Collar	\$10	Pregnant*	\$20-\$40

*(E-Collar included in price for male dogs) *Spay terminates Pregnancy*

Cat Declaw:

Declaw Package (during spay/neuter)	\$135 *
Declaw Package (without spay/neuter)	\$160*

**Includes antibiotics, take home pain medication, and Yesterday's news.*

- Age required for appointment: 10 weeks – 5 years. Weight required: 2-100lbs
- All pets must have written proof of a current rabies vaccine, or receive the vaccine at the time of surgery for \$5
- Drop-off is at 8am. Pick up is at 3pm.
- Please do not feed dogs and cats after 10pm the night before surgery. Rabbits do not need to fast prior to surgery.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccine Walk-In Hours (No appointment required)

Monday-Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm

Cat Vaccinations

Rabies	\$5
FeLV	\$10
FVRCP	\$10
FeLV/FIV Test	\$20

Dog Vaccinations

Rabies	\$5
DHPP	\$10
Bordetella	\$10
Lepto	\$10
Lyme	\$15
Canine Influenza	\$15
Heartworm Test	\$20
Heartworm Preventative	\$25-\$35

Other Services

General Dewormer (Strongid T)	\$5
Flea Preventative (one month)	\$12
Tapeworm Dewormer (Droncit)	\$10
Home Again Microchip	\$30
Home Again Microchip w/Surgery	\$20
Fecal Testing	\$15
Nail Trim	\$10

- We accept cash or credit as payment.
- TCAP is a low cost service program that provides care for animals belonging to individuals or groups with insufficient resources to purchase the same care from a full service provider. TCAP works to make high quality, preventative care achievable for those would otherwise be unable to afford it.

www.facebook.com/TCforAP



Bringing Your New Pet Home:

A little bit of planning can help make bringing your new pet home much easier on you.

Supplies:

For dogs, you'll need:

- **A collar or harness.** Collars are important, so choose carefully! Your pet's collar will help you walk them safely and will have their registration tags and rabies tags attached (required by law), so make sure you buy one that fits. A good rule of thumb is that the collar should not be able to slip over the dog's head, but you should be able to place 3 fingers under the collar so it's not too tight.
- **A leash.** Your dog's leash will keep them safe when you're taking them outside of your home or yard. Choose a leash that is sturdy, a good length, and comfortable for you to control.
- **Food and water bowls.** Generally, you should plan to give your pet fresh food and water daily. Choose bowls that are durable and washable, and size appropriate. There are lots of options to personalize!
- **Food.** There is a lot to know about which foods are ideal for your pet. A simpler rule of thumb is to look at the first 3 ingredients of food (shown on the bag). Ideally, the first ingredient should be a protein and not a corn or other non-meat product. Another thing to consider is that wet food (canned foods) are generally less desirable for regular diet. If choosing between kibble and canned, go kibble if you can.
- **A Crate.** Crate training is a good idea, especially for new pets or dogs which may have separation anxiety. The point of a crate is to create a safe place for the dog to remain while you have to leave the house. There are lots of resources available online and from pet professionals for how to crate train, to ensure that crating is a positive experience for your pet and never a negative one.
- **Toys.** You should set rules immediately with your new dog or puppy. Especially with chewing. Having several types of toys available (such as a ball, a stuffed animal, a squeaky toy, and a hard rubber or nylon chew) will help keep your dog preoccupied with the toys and away from shoes and other no-no items.

For cats, you'll need:

- **A collar or harness.** Collars are important, so choose carefully. A harness may be a more safe option for your cat, because cats climb and may get caught on something. You will need to attach your rabies tag and registration to the collar or harness, so make sure it's a good fit! Your cat may not like its new harness at first, but give it time; they'll get used to it soon enough!
- **Food and water bowls.** Generally, you should plan to give your pet fresh food and water daily. Choose bowls that are durable and washable, and size appropriate. Cats can usually be free-fed (you can fill the bowl up in the morning, and let them eat as they're hungry). There are lots of options to personalize!
- **Food.** There is a lot to know about which foods are ideal for your pet. A simpler rule of thumb is to look at the first 3 ingredients of food (shown on the bag). Ideally, the first ingredient should be a protein and not a corn or other non-meat product. Another thing to consider is that wet food (canned foods) are generally less desirable for regular diet. If choosing between kibble and canned, go kibble if you can.
- **Litter and a Litter Box.** Cats are naturally clean creatures. They instinctively use the restroom and bury their mess, so a litter box for an indoor cat is a must. Litter boxes come in all sizes and types. Make sure to choose a box that is big enough for your cat. One that is too small may be uncomfortable, and your cat will not use it. You will need to keep the box clean and scooped (daily, preferably).
With a new cat or kitten, make sure that they know where the litter box is and you don't lock them out of where it's at. They will naturally use a litterbox, but a stressed cat (such as one in a new environment) might get confused or go outside of the box if it's not easy to get to.
- **Scratching post.** It's a good idea to have a scratching post available for your cat. They will naturally stretch and 'knead' cloth with their claws. A post will give them a place to do so without harming your carpet or furniture



Introducing Dogs to Dogs (From ASPCA):

Maximizing the potential for a great relationship between your new dog and your current dog is a two-step process. It involves the actual introduction and then management of the new dog in your home. We'll start with introductions and then give you guidelines for helping your dogs through the initial transition weeks of being together in your home.

Introductions

- Leave your current dog at home when you pick up your new dog. One of the worst things you can do is to just throw the two of them together in your car and hope for the best!
- Introduce your dogs on neutral territory, like on a short walk through your neighborhood, in a nearby park or in a friend's yard. Have two people, one to handle each dog, while keeping the dogs on leashes.
- To minimize tension, try to keep the dogs' leashes loose so that they're not choking or feeling pressure on their throats.
- Don't force any interaction between the dogs. If the dogs ignore each other at first, or if one dog seems reluctant to interact with the other, that's okay. Give both dogs time to get comfortable. They'll interact when they're ready.
- Make the introduction positive and light-hearted. As the dogs sniff and get acquainted, encourage them in a happy tone of voice. At first, allow just a few seconds of sniffing. Then gently pull the dogs away from each other and let them walk around with their handlers. After a minute or two, you can lead the dogs back together and allow another several seconds of sniffing. These brief greetings help keep the dogs' interactions calm and prevent escalation to threats or aggression. You can also interrupt their interactions with simple obedience. After a brief sniff, lead the dogs apart, ask them to sit or lie down, and then reward them with treats.
- Once the dogs' greeting behaviors have tapered off and they appear to be tolerating each other without fearful or threatening behavior, you're ready to take them home. Before you take them inside, walk them together around your house or apartment building.
- Be patient. Bringing a new dog home requires that everyone make some adjustments, especially your current pets. And it will take time for your dogs to build a comfortable relationship.

The First Couple of Weeks at Home

- It's crucial to avoid squabbles during the early stages of your dogs' new relationship. Pick up all toys, chews, food bowls and your current dog's favorite items. When dogs are first forming a relationship, these things can cause rivalry. These items can be reintroduced after a couple of weeks, once the dogs have started to develop a good relationship.
- Feed the dogs in completely separate areas. Pick up bowls when feeding time is over. (Some dogs will compete over bowls that recently contained food.)
- Keep the dogs' playtime and interactions brief to avoid overstimulation and over arousal, which can lead to fighting.
- Confine the dogs in separate areas of your home whenever you're away or can't supervise their interactions.
- Give your new dog his own confinement area. When the dogs are separated, it might be a good idea to let them get to know each other through a barrier, like a baby gate. Your new dog should be gated in his confinement area, and your current dog should be free to move around and visit when he wants to.
- When the dogs are interacting, interrupt any growling or bullying behavior with a phrase like "Too bad," and then quickly separate them for several minutes. Then allow them to be together again. If your dogs seem to react poorly to each other often, don't hesitate to contact a professional who can help you, such as a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB), a board-certified veterinary behaviorist (Dip ACVB) or a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT) who's experienced in treating problems between dogs. Please see our article, Finding Professional Help, to locate a professional in your area.
- Be sure to sincerely praise your dogs when they are interacting nicely.
- Spend time individually with each dog. Give each of them training time with you and playtime with other dogs outside your home.



Introducing Cats to Cats (From ASPCA):

Cats are territorial, and in general they don't like to share. A cat who's unhappy about a newcomer may express his displeasure by fighting with the other pet and marking territory (peeing on the floor, wall or objects).

Cats also dislike change, and a new cat in the house is a huge change. These two character traits mean you could have a tough (but not impassable) road ahead.

Some cats are more social than other cats. For example, an 8-year-old cat who has never been around other animals might never learn to share her territory (and her people) with other pets in the household. But an 8-week-old kitten separated from her mom and littermates for the first time might be glad to have a cat or dog companion.

All of this means that your current pet and your new cat need to be introduced very slowly so they can get used to each other before a face-to-face meeting. Slow introductions help prevent fearful or aggressive behavior from developing. Below are some guidelines to help make the introductions go smoothly.

Be aware that the introduction process can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks, or even a few months in extreme cases. Be patient.

To animals, smells are far more important than appearances, so you want to get your pets used to each other's scent before they meet face-to-face. Keeping them confined at first and doing the following will help:

- Swap the blankets or beds the cats use or gently rub a washcloth on one cat's cheeks and put it underneath the food dish of another. If there are more than two animals in the house, do the same for each animal. When the pets finally do meet, at least their scents will be familiar.
- Once your new cat is using her litter box and eating regularly while confined, let her have free time in the house while confining your other pets to the new cat's room. It's best to introduce your new cat to a room or two at a time and increase her access to other rooms over a few days. This switch provides another way for them to experience each other's scents without a face-to-face meeting. It also allows the newcomer to get familiar with her new surroundings without the other animals frightening her.
- You can do this several times a day, but only when you're home to supervise. If you have to leave the house, put your new kitty back in her room.
- Next, after you've returned the cats to their designated parts of the house, use two doorstops to prop open the dividing door just enough to allow the animals to see each other.
- Repeat the whole process over a period of days—supervised, of course.

Slow and steady wins the race.

It's better to introduce your pets to each other gradually so that neither animal becomes afraid or aggressive. Once the cats are face to face, though, there will be some kinks for them to work out.

If you're really lucky (and your cats are inclined), they may do some mutual sniffing and grooming, and you're on your way to success. They may sit and stare at each other. You can provide distraction by dangling toys in front of them at the same time. This may encourage them to play together.

They might sniff each other, hiss, and walk away. That's to be expected. This may go on for a few days or so, and then you'll probably find them both sleeping on your bed.



Potty Training 101:

Your new pet may not be potty trained already. Both adults and puppies can be trained properly with some patience and consistency! There are many resources available to pet owners to help with potty training. If you have questions that aren't covered by this page, there are plenty more answers to be found!

Take your new dog outside often when you're home. Choose a "Potty Spot", and take her to that spot each time. Stand with her until she does something, but don't distract her with playing. This could take a minute, so be patient. When she potties, give her a treat and lots of praise. This helps to build a positive experience connected with pottying outside. She'll want to continue the behavior that gets her praised!

You should supervise your new pet as much as possible until they're trained. When you can't supervise her, confine her in a crate (kennel). An appropriate size kennel is large enough for them to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. If it's too big, they'll be more likely to potty on one side of it. Puppies can be confined, in general, for their age (in months) plus one. So, a 3 month old puppy could be confined for a maximum of 4 hours before desperately needing to potty. Their potty control will get better with age. It's very important to try not to go past their limits, as it will slow down potty training progress.

Your goal should be to avoid mistakes by taking them outside very often, but don't forget that mistakes might definitely happen sometimes during moments when your pet is not being attended. Be patient, the process takes time. When you catch your pet pottying in the house, don't jump to punishment. You can confuse and frighten your pet, and your relationship with them is still new. Instead, **interrupt** them. Do this by clapping, saying "outside, outside!", or simply grabbing them and taking them out before they finish. The goal is to distract them from going without scaring them. Take them outside and let them finish, then praise them for going outside! It's easy to think that getting on to them will help, and it might, but it could also trigger other behaviors like fearful urination or even being afraid to potty at all when you're around (even outside).

If done properly, potty training should involve little to no negative punishment (such as swatting). Dogs are natural people (pack) pleasers, and will pick up on what you want them to do. Consistency is key, however. If they're allowed to go inside sometimes and not others, it will only confuse them, so you'll want to stay on top of the training from start to finish. Adult dogs with no potty training history may take more time and patience, to develop new habits as adult.

When to take your new pet outside:

- Every hour or few hours, depending on age.
- After they wake up from a nap.
- After playing with them.
- After they eat.
- When you take them out of their crate/kennel.
- First thing in the morning!



10 Training Tips:

1. Listen to Your Dog

Learn to listen to your dog. If your dog appears to be uncomfortable meeting another dog, animal or person, don't insist that he say hello. He's telling you that he isn't comfortable for a reason, and you should respect that. Forcing the issue can often result in bigger problems down the line.

2. Be Generous with Your Affection

Most people don't have a problem being very clear about when they are unhappy with their dogs, but, they often ignore the good stuff. Big mistake! Make sure you give your dog lots of attention when he's doing the right thing. Let him know when he's been a good boy. That's the time to be extra generous with your attention and praise. It's even okay to be a little over the top.

3. Does He Really Like It?

Just because the bag says "a treat all dogs love" doesn't mean your dog will automatically love it. Some dogs are very selective about what they like to eat. Soft and chewy treats are usually more exciting for your dog than hard and crunchy treats. Keep your eyes open for what he enjoys.

4. Tell Him What You Want Him to Do

There is nothing inherently wrong with telling your dog "no," except that it doesn't give him enough information. Instead of telling your dog "no," tell him what you want him to do. Dogs don't generalize well, so if your dog jumps up on someone to say hello and you say no, he may jump higher or he may jump to the left side instead of the right. A better alternative would be to ask him to "sit." Tell him what you want him to do in order to avoid confusion.

5. Be Consistent

Whenever you're training your dog, it's important to get as many family members involved as possible so everyone's on the same page. If you are telling your dog "off" when he jumps on the couch and someone else is saying "down," while someone else is letting him hang out up there, how on earth is he ever going to learn what you want? Consistency will be the key to your success.

6. Have Realistic Expectations

Changing behavior takes time. You need to have realistic expectations about changing your dog's behavior as well as how long it will take to change behaviors that you don't like. Often behaviors which are "normal" doggie behaviors will take the most time such as barking, digging and jumping. You also need to consider how long your dog has rehearsed the behavior. For example, if you didn't mind that your dog jumped up on



people to say hi for the last seven years and now you decide that you don't want him to do that anymore, that behavior will take a much longer time to undo than if you had addressed it when he was a pup. Remember it's never too late to change the behavior some will just take longer than others.

7. Don't Underestimate the Benefits of Feeding a High Quality Food

Feed your dog a high-quality diet with appropriate amounts of protein. If your dog spends most of his days lounging in your condo, don't feed him food with a protein level that is ideal for dogs who herd sheep all day. The money that you will spend on feeding an appropriate quality food will often be money that you save in vet bills later on. I recommend you always check with your veterinarian for the right diet for your dog.

8. You Get What You Reinforce – Not Necessarily What You Want

If your dog exhibits a behavior you don't like, there is a strong likelihood that it's something that has been reinforced before. A great example is when your dog brings you a toy and barks to entice you to throw it. You throw the toy. Your dog has just learned that barking gets you to do what he wants. You say "no," and he barks even more. Heaven forbid you give in and throw the toy now! Why? Because you will have taught him persistence pays off. Before you know it you'll have a dog that barks and barks every time he wants something. The solution? Ignore his barking or ask him to do something for you (like "sit") before you throw his toy.

9. Bribery vs. Reward

The idea of using treats to train is often equated with bribery. Truthfully, dogs do what works. If using treats gets them to do what you want, then why not? You can also use the world around you as a reinforcement. Every interaction you have with your dog is a learning opportunity, so when you think about it, you probably don't use food very often except during active training sessions. So why does your dog continue to hang out? Because you reinforce him with praise, touch, games and walks. Just remember, the behavior should produce the treat; the treat should not produce the behavior.

10. Freedom

Let your new dog gradually earn freedom throughout your home. A common error that many pet parents make is giving their new dog too much freedom too soon. This can easily lead to accidents relating to housetraining and destructive chewing. So, close off doors to unoccupied rooms and use baby gates to section off parts of the house, if necessary. One of the best ways to minimize incidents is to keep your dog tethered to you in the house and by using a crate or doggie safe area when you can't actively supervise him.



ESTIMATED COST OF PET OWNERSHIP

Costs	Notes	Small Dog	Medium Dog	Large Dog	Cat	Rabbit	Guinea Pig	Small Mammal	Small Bird	Fish
Annual Costs										
Food	1	\$55	\$120	\$235	\$115	\$190	\$105	\$50	\$75	\$20
Recurring Medical	2	\$210	\$235	\$260	\$160	\$70	\$70		\$85	
Litter	3				\$165	\$415	\$415	\$210		
Toys/Treats		\$40	\$55	\$75	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$25	\$25	
License		\$15	\$15	\$15						
Health Insurance	4	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$175					
Misc.		\$35	\$45	\$65	\$30	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
Annual Total		\$580	\$695	\$875	\$670	\$730	\$635	\$300	\$200	\$35
Capital Costs										
Spay/Neuter		\$190	\$200	\$220	\$145	\$160				
Other initial medical	5	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$130					
Collar/Leash		\$25	\$30	\$35	\$10					
Litter Box					\$25	\$25				
Scratching Post					\$15					
Cage						\$100	\$70	\$40	\$70	
Carrier Bag		\$40	\$60		\$40	\$40				
Crate		\$35	\$95	\$125						
Aquarium Eqpt.	6									\$200
Training Class		\$110	\$110	\$110						
Capital Total		\$470	\$565	\$560	\$365	\$325	\$70	\$40	\$70	\$200
Special Costs										
Long Hair Groom		\$264	\$320	\$408						
First Year Total		\$1,314	\$1,580	\$1,843	\$1,035	\$1,055	\$705	\$340	\$270	\$235

1. Premium brand dry kibble
2. Exam, vaccinations, heartworm preventative & topical flea/tick preventative
3. Scoop able litter for cats, scooped daily; hardwood shavings or recycled paper products for rabbits, guinea pigs and small mammals, changed at least weekly
4. Insurance coverage varies: some policies cover spay/neuter, vaccinations and heartworm medication. The annual deductible will also vary depending on the policy.
5. Deworming, basic blood tests & microchip
6. Basic twenty gallon set up with light/hood, outside filter, under gravel filters, air pump and gravel. Does not include fish.