



# The **realistic** cost of owning a cat

Your feline friend is so thankful you're taking care of her—and she'll show her appreciation with purrs and cuddles.

**W**hen you add a feline friend to your family, you're in for some fun surprises—paws on your keyboard, furry wakeup calls, and acrobatic tricks when you least expect them. However there are some not-so-fun surprises, too—like hairballs, illnesses, and veterinary bills.

But don't fall into a feline frenzy just yet! The more you know about the costs of owning a cat, the better you can prepare your budget. Take a look at some of the top cat concerns about cat ownership below and see how much it costs to put these worries to rest.



And don't forget the kitty litter and litter box expenses, as well as any furniture damage your curious kitty may inflict.

Estimates for the average lifetime expenses add up to **\$10,424** for a cat living **15 years**. Veterinary costs take up a large portion of those expenses.

Make an appointment and talk to your veterinarian about veterinary pet insurance and wellness plan options. And remember the goal is to keep your new feline friend happy and healthy for as long as possible—and that, of course, is priceless.

Key concerns	Key costs
<b>How do I know if my cat is healthy and happy?</b>	Your clever kitty may not show overt signs of her illness until her condition is severe. At routine veterinary visits, your veterinarian will keep a close eye on your pet's physical and emotional needs. <i>Routine veterinary visit costs per year:</i> <b>\$200 to \$500* or more</b>
<b>What if my cat needs surgery?</b>	Discuss the reason for the surgery, what to expect after the surgery and any other concerns with your veterinarian. <i>Surgical veterinary visit costs:</i> <b>Starting around \$400 or more, depending on the procedure, your pet's health, and other considerations</b>
<b>Is my cat getting the right nutrition?</b>	Talk to your veterinarian about what diet is best for your cat's breed and lifestyle. <i>Annual food costs:</i> <b>\$400 to \$600 or more</b>
<b>Is my cat getting enough exercise?</b>	Playing with your cat twice daily is good for her brain and body. <i>Annual cat toy costs:</i> <b>\$50 or more, if you opt for cat trees and additional cat-friendly furniture and toys</b>
<b>How do I keep my cat clean?</b>	Your cat will take care of some of this herself. You should invest in a good brush, and she may require occasional professional grooming. <i>Annual grooming costs:</i> <b>\$20 or more, depending on your cat's personal grooming needs, coat, and more</b>
<b>What if I need to go out of town?</b>	If Fluffy isn't invited on your trip, you'll have to book a room at her favorite pet hotel. <i>Average boarding costs per year:</i> <b>\$350 or more, depending on accommodations</b>
<b>Total costs per year: \$1,000 or more</b>	

\* Note: These numbers are estimates only, based on the costs of annual care. Your veterinarian may provide additional services in your pet's routine to keep your pet healthy, which may increase these expenses. Remember, your pet's veterinary needs are unique to your pet and depend on the injuries they incur or develop. Individual pets may be at a higher risk for developing specific diseases based on breed, lifestyle, or conformation/body condition.