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The Cost of Owning a Cat

Cats can be incredibly affectionate and playful little things, and their unique personalities are often what makes us fall in love with them. However, before you commit to bringing a new pet home, it's important to know just how much they cost to look after. Here, we take a look at what you can expect to pay at the start and further down the line, helping you to decide if your budget is right for getting a cat.

£12,000 - £24,000 per lifetime

Good news, cat lovers! The average cost of owning a cat is £17,000, which is significantly less than the average cost of owning a dog.

Cats are typically smaller than dogs and are naturally independent animals, which means they aren't only less expensive to keep but will cost less of your time throughout their lives.

First things first: bringing a cat into your home

Before you bring a cat into your home it's vital that you understand some of their basic requirements and prepare yourself with the right equipment:

- [Bed](#)
- [Food and water dishes](#)
- [Scratching post](#)
- [Litter tray and scoop](#)
- [Toys](#)
- [Grooming equipment](#)
- [Travel carriers](#)



As well as all this, you may need to spend on [microchipping](#), [initial vaccinations](#) and [neutering](#) if you're adopting a kitten (some of these costs might not be necessary if you're giving a home to an older cat).

Without the additional cost of buying the cat itself, though we recommend adopting from a recognised rescue centre, the average initial price of getting a cat is £250.

The monthly cost of your cat

The monthly cost of owning a cat will vary depending on your home and lifestyle. For instance, if your cat does go to the toilet outside you won't have the upkeep of tray and litter. Outdoor cats also tend to get all the exercise they need while running around in the open air - they won't require as many toys inside, so you won't need to buy them.

According to the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals, the average monthly cost of owning a cat comes in at £70. This is calculated based on the price of:

- [Health checks and booster vaccinations](#)
- [Regular flea and deworming](#)
- [Pet insurance](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Toys](#)
- [Cat litter](#)

Fortunately for cat lovers, the average lifetime cost of owning a cat doesn't change based on breed, if you can afford to support a cat throughout its lifetime, you can choose the best kind for your family without worrying about a difference in cost further down the line.

If you're thinking about bringing a cat into your home, make sure you do plenty of research and prepare yourself for the long-term commitment – there's nothing more important than the welfare of the animal in your care. Discover more about which type of [cat breed would be suitable for you and your home](#).

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