

Dog Dollars and Sense

Using either teacher-supplied costs or researching costs from supplied websites, students estimate the initial cost of acquiring a dog, and the annual costs of maintaining it. Possible options include buying from a pet store or adopting from an animal shelter.

Curriculum Connection

Mathematics Kindergarten to Grade 9 Program of Studies (2007)

Grade 4, 5

Strand: Number

11. Demonstrate an understanding of addition and subtraction of decimals .

Grade 6

Strand: Patterns and Relations (Patterns)

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships within tables of values to solve problems.

Activity

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This exercise involves research, estimating and budgeting. It's a good way to give students an idea of the costs of pet ownership before they are committed, as well as showing the variation between costs of purchase and adoption. To start, have students determine what sex, breed (or large, medium or small if mixed breed) and whether they will purchase or adopt from a shelter.

The estimates will vary; students can research the costs several ways:

Cost of obtaining a dog and initial medical costs by calling local pet shops, looking in classified ads, or online. (If you want to find out adoption fees from a local shelter, it's best

if just one student calls and shares the information with others so that shelter staff/volunteer time is not taken up.

Annual veterinary costs can be determined by calling local veterinarians, groomers and trainers.

Supplies and food can be checked by a trip to a pet store or by reading through a newspaper flyer.

Notes:

Adoption fees are significantly lower than purchasing a dog at a store. There are many good dogs awaiting adoption at animal shelters. Often, adoption fees include spay/neuter procedures, initial exams and vaccinations. Spaying and neutering is a small cost compared to the cost of looking after a litter of pups.

Extension

Students can create a time budget to reinforce the concept that pets require a serious time commitment. Activities such as walking the dog on a daily basis, brushing, feeding, play time, training, and visits to the veterinarian should all be included.

Solution

Amounts will vary, but you can expect initial to range from about \$400 for a dog adopted from a shelter to \$1000 or more for a dog purchased from a pet store or breeder. Annual costs are typically in the \$1200 to \$2000 range.



Dog Dollars and Sense



Name: _____

Date: _____

Dogs make great pets, but there is a cost, in both dollars and time. Use the amounts given by your teacher to estimate the costs below. Note that not all items may be needed. Can you think of other costs that aren't listed?

PART 1: INITIAL COSTS

Cost of the dog—choose one:

Shelter adoption fee, or \$ _____

pet store or breeder price \$ _____

Medical and training costs

initial veterinary exam and vaccinations \$ _____

tattoo or microchip \$ _____

spaying (female dog) or neutering (male dog) fee \$ _____

obedience training \$ _____

Supplies

food and water dishes \$ _____

collar and leash \$ _____

brush and comb \$ _____

carry kennel for travelling \$ _____

insulated dog house \$ _____

dog bed \$ _____

toys \$ _____

other: _____ \$ _____

Total One-time Costs: \$ _____

PART 2: ANNUAL COSTS

Food

dry dog food \$ _____

canned food \$ _____

treats \$ _____

Medical costs

annual veterinary exam and vaccinations \$ _____

pet health insurance, or savings for accidents or major illness \$ _____

Grooming

dog shampoo \$ _____

two trips to groomer for bath, fur and nail trim \$ _____

Other costs

annual licence fee \$ _____

boarding or pet sitting while on vacation \$ _____

replacement toys \$ _____

other: _____ \$ _____

Total Annual Costs: \$ _____



When you're finished, list some things you need to do for your dog that don't cost money.

