



## Cost and Benefit of Pet Ownership

Pet ownership is extremely rewarding and owning a pet can be associated with healthy living and overall greater life enjoyment.

Companionship and security are also great benefits of pet ownership together with greater community socialisation.

Pet ownership can also teach children responsibility, routine and empathy.

According to Australian Veterinary Association the Family Pooch Index has revealed that over in the average lifespan of a dog, owners will spend on average more than \$25,000 per animal.

The cost of dog ownership is greater than that of a cat however both need to be taken into consideration before making the decision to become a pet owner.

The following is a basic list of fundamental needs for your new pet which outlines the cost associated with pet ownership.

### The cost of pet ownership includes;

- **Food:** The dog's and cat's diet needs to contain all the nutrients required.
- **Registration:** Annual registration fees apply for **dogs (please refer to "Application for Registration of a Dog")**.
- **Veterinary Costs:** There are costs for annual vaccinations, regular worming treatment and any other unexpected health treatments.
- **Suitable property;** The suitability of your property is important when deciding to purchase a pet as there could be additional costs associated with the modification of fencing, clean bedding, proper shelter and minimising possible neighbourhood impacts.
- **Mental stimulation;** Toys are important for dogs and cats to ensure mental and physical stimulation that can aid with boredom and assist with decreasing dog barking that may be associated with boredom.
- **Socialisation and training for your dog:** Local community training facilities are not a great expense and do provide your dog with vital training and socialisation however this cost should also be considered when deciding on a new dog.