

# FIFI, FIDO & FINANCES

Darren Osborne MA, OVMA Director of Economic Research



## The Cost of Owning a Dog or Cat in 2011

### Annual Cost of Caring for an Adult Forty-Pound Dog

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Annual Vaccines                                   | \$ 130.60         |
| Annual Fecal Exam                                 | 34.00             |
| Annual Wellness Profile (includes heartworm test) | 90.30             |
| Heartworm/Flea Prevention                         | 136.44            |
| Professional Dental Care                          | 470.80            |
| Food  | 458.36            |
| Pet Insurance                                     | 510.50            |
| Annual Municipal Pet License                      | 25.00             |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>\$ 1856.00</b> |

### Annual Cost of Caring for an Adult Ten-Pound Cat

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Annual Vaccines              | \$ 130.60                                       |
| Annual Fecal Exam            | \$ 34.00 (may not be necessary for indoor cats) |
| Annual Wellness Profile      | \$ 90.30  |
| Flea Prevention              | \$ 84.86 (may not be necessary for indoor cats) |
| Professional Dental Care     | \$ 470.80                                       |
| Litter                       | \$ 96.25  |
| Food                         | \$ 234.13                                       |
| Pet Insurance                | \$ 286.51                                       |
| Annual Municipal Pet Licence | \$ 25.00  |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$ 1442.45</b>                               |

As many pet owners know, dog or cat ownership can be a costly, albeit rewarding, lifestyle choice. Sporadic and unforeseen pet expenses can lead to confusion regarding the average annual cost of ownership. To gain a better understanding of how to budget for your family pet, the following tables closely approximate the annual expenses one can expect for a dog and cat, as well as the cost of owning a puppy and kitten in its first year of life.

### Important

The veterinary care fees shown are based on OVMA's 2011 Suggested Fee Guide for Small Animal Procedures. Most of the treatment costs listed are based on preventative care and common procedures (e.g. spays and neuters).

We have also included the yearly costs of pet insurance based on a plan that covers 80 per cent of the expenses for all accidents and illness. The premiums listed include one year of coverage and any administrative fees that may apply.

Taxes are not included.

No financial allowances have been made for professional grooming, due to the variances in grooming requirements. If a dog needs to be groomed outside the home, it can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$200 per visit, depending on the frequency of grooming, breed, condition of the pet and cut requested.

While the budgets shown are based on a premium diet, there are certainly less expensive foods available. However, a premium diet can save pet owners in the long run, as it can help to prevent or manage various health problems.

Many of the procedures listed below are also accompanied by future financial benefits. The municipal licensing fees shown here are based on altered dogs and cats. For pets that haven't been spayed or neutered, licensing fees are generally at least double those for licensing an altered pet. For example, licensing an unaltered dog in Toronto for 10 years costs \$350 more than licensing a neutered dog. In addition, several pet-related services and products (e.g. pet insurance) offer discounts for pets that have been microchipped.

While these budgets are only estimates, they still make clear the significant financial commitment necessary to care for a dog or cat.



### FIRST YEAR of Puppy Ownership

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Puppy Vaccine Series         | \$ 311.40                                    |
| Fecal Exam                   | 34.00  |
| De-worming medication        | 22.62  |
| Heartworm/Flea Prevention    | 136.44                                       |
| Microchip Identification     | 70.30  |
| Spay/Neuter                  | 542.40 / 489.50                              |
| Obedience Classes            | 260.75                                       |
| Food                         | 513.19                                       |
| Pet Insurance                | 510.50                                       |
| Leash and Collar             | 24.15  |
| Bowls                        | 17.78  |
| Kennel                       | 99.12  |
| Rawhides/Chew Toys           | 52.03  |
| Bed                          | 86.71  |
| Annual Municipal Pet Licence | 25.00  |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>Female: \$2706.39<br/>Male: \$2653.49</b> |



### FIRST YEAR of Kitten Ownership

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Kitten Vaccine Series        | \$ 311.40                                    |
| Fecal Exam                   | 34.00  |
| De-worming Medication        | 18.87  |
| Flea Prevention              | 79.76  |
| Microchip Identification     | 70.30  |
| Spay/Neuter                  | 495.80 / 370.30                              |
| Food                         | 267.12                                       |
| Pet Insurance                | 286.51                                       |
| Collar                       | 7.36   |
| Bowls                        | 13.08  |
| Kennel                       | 61.87  |
| Litter Box                   | 22.29  |
| Litter                       | 49.79  |
| Bed                          | 47.99  |
| Annual Municipal Pet Licence | 15.00  |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>Female: \$1781.14<br/>Male: \$1655.64</b> |