


The cost of owning a pet (Year 6)

 30-45 mins

Investigate the financial and non-financial costs of becoming a pet owner and consider other factors such as ethical considerations and external influences. This resource has been adapted from the unit of work: [It's raining cats and dogs... and chickens?](#).

Outcomes

Students:

- investigate the financial and non-financial costs of becoming a pet owner
- consider ethical and other external factors that influence choice of pet
- realise a pet costs more than just the money you spend.

Curriculum links

Mathematics

- Interpret secondary data presented in digital media and elsewhere (ACMSP148)

Economics and Business

- The effect that consumer and financial decisions can have on the individual, the broader community and the environment (ACHASSK150)

English

- Plan, draft and publish imaginative, **informative** and **persuasive** texts (ACELY1714)

Other resources

- Moneysmart unit of work: [It's raining cats and dogs... and chickens?](#).
- Moneysmart digital resource: [The cost of cats and dogs...and snakes?](#)
- [Thing](#), Book by Robin Klein

Discovery (25 mins)

Pet ownership

Did you know that Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world with over two thirds of households owning pets (36% of households own dogs and 23% own cats!). Quite simply, pets are part of the Australian way of life. ([acac.org.au](#))

- Play the YouTube video [RSPCA's pop up adoption 2017](#) (2:09) and think about the financial and non-financial costs of owning a pet.
 - Why do people have pets?
 - What sorts of animals are not suitable as pets? Why?
 - Do you think owning a pet is ethical?
 - What are some of the considerations for selecting a pet?
 - What are pedigreed animals? How do they differ from non-pedigreed?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of owning a pedigreed animal?
 - Where can you go to get pets?

Financial costs

- Visit the [Getting a pet](#) page and write or discuss the following points (**Worksheet 1**):
 - List *two* types of pets.
 - Add how much you think it would cost to buy each pet
 - List all the essentials you can think of (eg. food, training, registration, vet)
 - Add the estimated cost per month for these essentials

Non-financial commitment

- Write or discuss non-financial commitments of pet ownership (**Worksheet 2**).
 - List *five* non-financial benefits/activities (eg. [health and social benefits](#)).

Get practical (20 mins)

Design your ideal pet

- Design your ideal pet using plasticine, Lego or draw/paint it on paper. Why not invent a new breed!
 - Pretend you are the shop owner for the 'Fantastical creature pet shop'.
 - Create a promotional poster for each creature in your shop.
 - Make sure the poster includes all the things a potential owner should know:
 - Pet breed/name and how much it costs to buy?
 - What are some financial costs owners should consider (per week)? (eg. food/special diet, vet services, equipment, etc)
 - What are some non-financial commitments owners should consider (regular walks, time out of cage, grooming required)?

Worksheet 1: Financial costs

Pet #1:	Estimated/Actual cost to purchase pet:
List essential (eg food, training, registration, vet)	Estimated/Actual financial cost (\$) per month

Pet #2:	Estimated/Actual cost to purchase pet:
List essential (eg food, training, registration, vet)	Estimated/Actual financial cost (\$) per month

Worksheet 2: Non-financial commitments

Non-financial commitments
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.