

# How Much is that Doggie in the Window?

## *A pet ownership expense worksheet for children and parents*

It's not just the purchase price of a pet that costs money; it's the feeding, grooming, vet bills, and boarding that can really add up to a lot.

In an effort to teach children about managing money, Texas CPAs provide parents with a pet ownership worksheet to help your family budget the expenses associated with getting and keeping man's best friend (or a furry feline).

Texas CPAs suggest incorporating the following money lessons in the purchase and care of a family pet:

### **Allowance**

Do you give your children an allowance for performing chores? If so, add feeding and watering the pet to the task list.

### **Budgeting**

Show your children how to budget expenses by using the pet ownership worksheet. The various expense categories can help children learn where the money goes.

### **Needs Versus Wants**

Sure a gemstone-encrusted collar is nice, but a canvas one does the job just fine too. Making financial decisions about pet toys and accessories can illustrate the difference between true needs (food) and wants (a glow-in-the-dark Frisbee).

### **Emergency Savings**

It's important to have money set aside to pay for unexpected veterinary expenses like X-rays for the dog who swallowed large staples (true story) or the cat who got in a scuffle with a porcupine (could be a true story).

No matter how much pets cost, their place in the family can be priceless. Pets can teach children to be responsible caregivers and serve as confidants, protectors and pals.

**TXCPA**



# The True Cost of Owning a Pet: A Pet Owners Worksheet

EXPENSES	BUDGETED AMOUNT	ACTUAL AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE
<b>ONE-TIME EXPENSES</b>			
<p><b>The actual pet</b>  <i>Something to consider: Lots of dogs and cats need good homes. Contact your city's animal shelter or local rescue operation for more information. This option may let you get Fido or Fluffy for free!</i></p> <p><i>Breed and pedigree can affect the price. Do you want a full-blooded show dog or a four-legged friend of mixed breeding?</i></p>			
<b>Vet Bills</b>			
<i>Spaying or neutering, vaccinations, microchip, etc.</i>			
<b>Housing and Miscellaneous</b>			
<i>Dog house/crate</i>			
<i>Bed</i>			
<i>Scratching post</i>			
<i>Leash, collar, tags</i>			
<i>Food/water bowls and litter box</i>			
<b>Obedience School/Training</b>			
<b>RECURRING EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Food</b>			
<b>Cat Litter</b>			
<p><b>Grooming/shampoo</b>  <i>Something to consider: Frequency needed (outdoor or indoor pet, long-haired or short-haired dog), do it yourself or take to a groomer</i></p>			
<b>Vet bills - annual exams, meds, shots</b>			
<b>Boarding, pet sitting or doggy daycare</b>			
<b>Bones, toys, treats</b>			
<b>TOTAL (add all categories together for total budget)</b>			

Remember, owning a pet is a big responsibility that requires a big financial commitment. By understanding the true cost of pet ownership, you can make informed decisions and ensure your pet receives the best care. Use what you've learned to plan ahead, budget wisely, and enjoy a happy and healthy life with your furry friend!

