

des moines county **HUMANE SOCIETY**

The Cost of Owning a Cat What Potential Adoptive Parents Should Know

Sure, cats are more low maintenance than dogs, but that does not mean they are low cost. Over the lifetime of a cat, the financial cost might be much higher than people believe, or have even thought about as excitement of bringing a cat home dominates their thoughts.

The adoption fee is just the start of a lifetime of expenses.

Those include:

Food * Vaccines * Vet bills * Spay/neuter * Treats * Bowls * Collars * Litter box * Cat litter
Furniture * Window perches * Bed * Carrier * Scratching post * Grooming tools
Hair removing tape * Flea control * Heartworm prevention * Toys * Boarding
Dental and ear care * Stain cleaner

Some of these are one-time expenses – spay/neuter, for example. Some are occasional expenses – grooming tools or bowls. But others are regular costs that add up month after month, year after year – food, vaccines, flea control, heartworm prevention.

There are, of course, ways to keep expenditures down, and they vary depending on each person's situation. But there also are some cats that require more maintenance than others, whether it is more extensive and more frequent grooming, or health issues that require frequent trips to the vet. And as cats age, vet care and other health expenses increase.

Over the lifetime of a 14-year-old cat, expenses can range from **\$4,500 to \$18,000**.

If you consider an adoption fee of a cat exorbitant, remember that is only the beginning. Please take the overall cost of owning a cat into consideration before taking on the responsibility of caring for and providing a loving home for an animal which relies solely on you for all of its needs.