

Name _____

DATA SHEET 54.2

Cost Factors to Consider in Choosing a Pet

Pets may be amusing, enjoyable, and satisfying; they can also be expensive. Although not all the factors below apply to all pets, many of them do. Use the ones that apply to the pet you have chosen.

- Initial cost. Some pets can cost hundreds of dollars or more.
- Any fees for a license.
- Food.
- Veterinarian fees. Many pets require routine examinations and inoculations. Include an estimate for other medical care needed during a typical year.
- Grooming fees. Some pets require regular or periodic grooming. If you do it yourself, at the least you will need bathing and grooming implements and supplies; if you take the pet to a professional groomer, you will need your wallet.
- Costs for special items—for example:
 - Beds, crates, travel boxes, and litter boxes
 - Food and water bowls
 - Collars, leashes, chains
 - Brushes, combs
 - Toys, scratching posts
 - Flea collars or powders
- In the case of fish you will need an aquarium, air pump, filter, carbon, heater, gravel, light, and other supplies.
- For birds you will need a cage, swing, and beak sharpener.
- For hamsters you will need a cage and running wheel.
- For pets such as lizards, salamanders, frogs, or toads, you will need a terrarium.

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Goal

students are to imagine that they are interested in buying a pet. Before they do, they are to research the expenses related to that pet and, along with its purchase price, determine potential costs for veterinarian services, food, cages, toys, and other expenses for a one-year period. Students are to write a summary report of their findings and share their findings orally with the class. *Suggested time:* Two to three class periods.

Possible Strategies

1. Consider the pet you would like to research. You may choose a common one such as a dog or a cat, or an exotic one such as a snake or tropical bird. (Remember that the less common the pet is, the harder it might be to find information.)
2. Consult reference sources on the pet you chose, and estimate the cost for keeping it for a year.
3. Consult online sources. Conducting a search for a specific pet will provide you with information. You can find Web sites that offer information about materials and equipment you will need for this pet by searching with the term "pet supplies."

Special Considerations

- For most pets, the information regarding costs will be presented in ranges or averages. Your final costs therefore will most likely be based on estimates.
- Include the purchase price of the pet, as well as all other costs. Keep in mind that some pets can be adopted for little or no cost.
- Since different pets have different needs, carefully consider the information presented on Data Sheet 54.2.
- Summarize your findings in a brief report; include an itemized list of costs and a total at the end. Write your report on a computer, which will make revision easier.
- Be prepared to explain your findings to the class.

* Produce a poster or slideshow.