



DOGGY DINERO

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Research cost of pet ownership and report your results
- Discriminate between types of data
- Construct tables and charts to display information

🕒 2 HOURS

ADULT HELP REQUIRED

DIFFICULTY: 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

YOUR MISSION

Have you ever thought about getting a dog? I mean, I know you've thought about long walks in the sun, games of fetch and tummy tickles, but owning a dog requires planning and part of that is budgeting for how much it will cost. Keeping Pepe in treats alone costs a small fortune! Just how much dough would you dole out on your doggy each week, month or year?

Using the internet, research what your household would need to spend in order to keep a dog happy and healthy in your home. Exercise your arithmetic skills to calculate what it would cost over time, and then use your information-handling expertise to display what you discover.

GET STARTED

PHASE 1:

Research. Here are some things you need to include in your budget.

Breed: As we know, dog breeds vary a lot and some have very different needs. How will you account for this in your report?

Food: Dogs need to eat twice daily but there are lots of different types of food available. Which is the best choice?

Somewhere to sleep: A comfy bed is essential, but will you upcycle or go high-end?

Leaving the house: To take your dog out for exercise you'll need a lead and either a collar or a harness. Which will you choose?

Training: Puppies need training and 'socialisation' classes to help them learn about the world and how to respond to it. Will these costs go on forever?

Staying happy: Dogs need mental stimulation and adore toys of all sorts to chase, fetch and chew. What are the best toys on the market and what do they cost? Will they need replacing at some point? Can you make a dog toy at home for your pup to enjoy?

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

PHASE 1 CONTINUED:

Veterinary costs: Microchipping, vaccinations, regular treatments to ward off parasites like fleas, ticks and worms – this is the less-than-fun side of dog ownership, but all are essential and must be accounted for in your budget. It is often recommended that dogs are **neutered**. This means them having an operation (*oh, don't say any more, you're making my eyes water, pepe, ed*) to prevent them from producing puppies. This can be a significant cost early in a dog's life (*you're telling me? pepe, ed*).

Boarding: If a dog owner goes away on holiday they often pay to have their pooch looked after by someone else, at boarding kennels or in their home. How often might this happen during a dog's lifetime? Is it an essential or an optional spend?

Insurance: A monthly or annual payment to an insurance company provides a payout if vet's bills arise because of an illness or accident. Doggy doctors' bills will likely be one of the biggest costs after food! Insurance is a pain, but would you be without it? Hmmm, decisions decisions.

PHASE 2:

Presenting your information

How will a potential new dog owner interpret your budget?

Think about the clearest way to present various bits of information. You might use a pie chart to show the comparative cost of each element, or a bar chart to compare overall costs for different breeds. How will you show which are one-off costs, and which are recurring? Will you need two methods? Which costs are essential and which are optional? If you had to make a saving somewhere, which costs could you easily reduce and how?

Send us your dog budgets. We'd like to see if Pepe is costing us too much money (*Excuse me, WHAT? pepe, ed*)!

USEFUL WEBSITES TO GET YOU STARTED:

* <https://www.pdsa.org.uk/taking-care-of-your-pet/looking-after-your-pet/puppies-dogs>

* <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs>

* <https://www.raystede.org/education/learning-home>

* <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/getting-a-dog-or-puppy/>

* <https://www.battersea.org.uk/pet-advice/dog-care-advice/dog-care>