



Dog essentials budgeting resource

Together
Through
Homelessness



This resource is designed to support dog owners who are moving from supported accommodation into independent living. Its aim is to help you plan and budget for the essential items and care your dog needs, while also showing how caring for your dog can be affordable, manageable, and rewarding.

Caring for your dog responsibly through a good diet, preventative health care, regular exercise, grooming, and enrichment can help reduce costs in the long term and keep your dog happy and healthy.

Monthly dog budget planner

The budgeting table below covers the basic requirements needed to meet your dog's 5 Welfare Needs. You may choose to spend more on branded or new items, but this is not necessary. Responsible dog ownership is about meeting needs, not spending the most money. We actively encourage you to get creative, reuse items where possible, and access support.

Category	Estimated cost £ (dog owner fills this in)
One off	
Enrichment/toys	
Supplies/equipment (bed, blanket)	
Other	
	Total:
Monthly	
Food	
Poo bags	
Grooming/general care	
Treats/training treats/dental sticks	
Vet treatment*	
Pet insurance or savings (for emergencies)	
	Total:
Yearly	
Seasonal accessories (coats, cooling mats etc.)	
Yearly health check/vaccinations	
	Total:

*Support through our Vet Scheme continues for 6 months once you've moved into permanent accommodation.



Tips for keeping dog care affordable

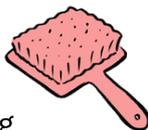
Food & Health

- Feeding a good-quality, appropriate diet can help prevent health problems later on.
- Using flea, worm, and tick preventatives reduces the risk of costly illnesses.
- Regular exercise supports physical and mental health and can reduce behavioural issues.



Grooming & General Care

- Buying one good brush or grooming mitt can last for years.
- Grooming at home is a lovely bonding experience and a chance to check for lumps, bumps, skin issues, or injuries early.

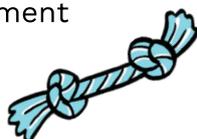


Regular grooming can reduce vet visits by spotting problems sooner.

Enrichment & Toys

Toys do not need to be expensive or branded. Try DIY enrichment such as:

- Snuffle mats made from old fabric
- Cardboard boxes for scent games
- Simple training games using everyday items
- Dogs Trust and Endorsed Services resources include free enrichment ideas.



Treats & Training

- Use low-cost homemade treats (recipes available through Dogs Trust resources).
- Break treats into smaller pieces - dogs don't need large amounts.
- Everyday food (where safe) can be used as training rewards.



Supplies & Equipment

Charity shops, Facebook Marketplace, and Freecycle can be great for:

- Blankets
- Beds
- Bowls



Dogs care about comfort and familiarity, not whether items are new.

Saving Little & Often

- Consider opening a savings account for dog costs.
- Round-up features can help build an emergency fund without feeling overwhelming.
- Plan ahead for seasonal costs (winter coats, summer cooling items).





More advice and resources

Community & Support

- Some vet practices offer free nurse clinics (weight checks, nail trims).
- Local networks, dog owner groups, community groups, community notice boards, local libraries and hubs can be a source of free advice, equipment swaps, or spare items.
- If costs become difficult, reach out to someone early - help is often available sooner than people realise.



Free and low cost vet care

Visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code below for more information about free and low cost vet care options.



Pet cost calculator

Calculate the cost of your dog using the [RSPCA's pet calculator](#).

Scan here to view the links on this page on our website



Pet food banks

- [Dogs Trust](#)
- [RSPCA](#)
- [Blue Cross](#)
- [Mayhew](#)
- Ask if your local food bank offers pet food.



A dog is for **life**®

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