



Cochrane & Area HUMANE SOCIETY

Pet Life Expectancy

How long will your pet live?

Mice, rats, hamsters	2-3 years
Gerbils	4-6 years
Guinea pigs	5-7 years
Rabbits	7-12 years
Dogs	10-14 years
Cats	14-17 years

How will this affect pet ownership costs?

To calculate the total lifetime costs of a pet, use the average life expectancy (estimate or calculate) and multiply that by your total annual costs:

A guinea pig lives 6 years on average (6 is half way between 5 and 7). If it costs \$50 a year to feed and care for a guinea pig, the total lifetime cost of owning a guinea pig will be:

$$\mathbf{6 \text{ years} \times \$50 = \$300}$$

Is this right? Or did we forget something? What about the initial cost of getting the guinea pig and his supplies? For example, you might spend \$100 to buy a guinea pig and his cage and bedding.

$$\mathbf{\$300 + \$100 = \$400 \text{ Total cost over the lifetime of a guinea pig.}}$$