



Add It Up

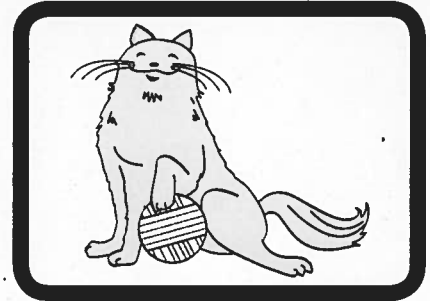
SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL 4

<p>Objective</p> <p>Materials</p>	<p>To learn about the costs of having a pet and learn why pets are a long-term commitment.</p> <p><i>Activity Sheet</i> Add It Up</p>
<p>Activity Procedure</p> <p>National Standards:</p> <p>English 12.5 Communication strategies</p> <p>Math 5.2 Operations 5.3 Compute</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain to students that getting a new pet can be exciting, but it is also a very big responsibility. Explain that for each year a pet lives, the owner must make sure that the pets' needs are being met. 2. Distribute copies of the Activity Sheet and ask students to complete it. (Answers: \$234, \$5.25, \$60, \$59.94, \$160, \$15, \$159.96, \$694.15, \$763.56) Afterwards, discuss the sheet pointing out to students that most cats live for 14 to 20 years. Multiply the total cost of caring for Maria's pet by a number in that age range. Ask students: <i>Do you think that is a lot of money? Why? Why is it important for people to consider the costs of caring for a pet before selecting one?</i>
<p>Math/Language Arts</p> <hr/> <p>Language Arts</p>	<p>EXTEND THIS LESSON</p> <p>Divide the class into small groups, and assign each group one of the following pets: dog, horse, hamster, goldfish, parakeet. Ask each group to use the library or the Internet to learn how long this type of pet typically lives, what care it needs, and what that care costs. Or, you might suggest that each group create a list of questions and have one member interview a local veterinarian. Groups can also visit a local pet supply store to check prices. Remind students to be as complete as possible and include such costs as boarding for a horse or the cost of a boarding kennel or pet-sitter for the other pets. Have the groups share their results with the class. Ask each group: <i>Were you surprised by your findings? Why or why not? What supplies and care are absolutely necessary? Which are "extras" or may not be needed all of the time?</i></p> <hr/> <p>Invite students to make a pamphlet titled, "Plan for a Pet" in which they inform others about what it costs to own a pet over its entire lifetime. Share the pamphlets with first or second graders in your school.</p>



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Maria wants a kitten for her birthday. Her parents have agreed to get her one, but they want Maria to figure out how much it will cost to take care of the cat for one year. Help Maria figure this out by adding up the totals.



- | | <i>Totals</i> |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Maria learns that cat food will cost about \$4.50 per week. | _____ |
| 2. A collar for her cat will cost \$5.25. | _____ |
| 3. Cat litter will cost her \$5.00 a month. | _____ |
| 4. Cat toys and treats will cost about \$9.99 every two months. | _____ |
| 5. Maria's parents have agreed to pay for the cat's first visit to the veterinarian. It costs the same amount as Maria would have if she saved her babysitting money for eight weeks. Maria gets \$10, two days a week. | _____
_____ |
| 6. In her town, a license costs \$15.00. | _____ |
| 7. Maria wants a long-haired cat and so will want to get her cat groomed. She will have her cat groomed on average four times a year. The cost is \$39.99 each visit. | _____ |
| 8. What is the total cost for one year? | _____ |
| 9. If the cost of everything increased by 10% next year, what would be the total cost next year? | _____ |

