

The Five Welfare Needs

Are you thinking of getting a rabbit? It's a really exciting prospect but a decision which takes a lot of consideration to make sure you're able to meet their welfare needs. It's easy to forget in all the buzz of getting a new pet, just how much it will cost to care for a rabbit but it's really important to do your research to help understand the lifelong costs you are committing to.

- **Health** - protection from pain, injury, suffering and disease and treated if they become ill or injured.
- **Behaviour** - the ability to behave naturally for their species e.g. Play, run, dig, jump, fly etc.
- **Companionship** - to be housed with, or apart from, other animals as appropriate for the species i.e. company of their own kind for sociable species like rabbits or guinea pigs, or to be housed alone for solitary species like hamsters.



- **Diet** - a suitable diet. This can include feeding appropriately for the pet's life stage and feeding a suitable amount to prevent obesity or malnourishment, as well as access to fresh clean water.
- **Environment** - a suitable environment. This should include the right type of home with a comfortable place to rest and hide as well as space to exercise and explore.

So, what does it cost?

People think a rabbit is an easy pet option but they have quite specific needs. It's important that they are given plenty of space and the right kind of company.

Rabbits are a social animal and should be kept in pairs or a small group so they have company of their own kind. With this in mind the figures stated in this leaflet are based on caring for a pair of rabbits.



As an owner, you should expect a pair of rabbits to cost **at least \$2,166 to \$5,666** over their lifetimes.

How did you work out the costs?

These costs are the minimum you can expect to meet your rabbits' welfare needs. Apart from neutering and vaccinations, these costs don't include any vet fees. If your rabbit has an accident or develops a health problem, the cost could be much higher.



The initial costs of getting a rabbit include:

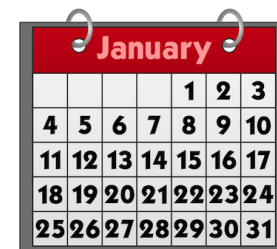
- A waterproof home
- An exercise run
- An initial course of vaccinations
- Neutering
- Toys

- Food bowl
- Water bowl
- Grooming equipment
- Pet carrier

The average cost of these is £570 and does not include buying a pair of rabbits.

What are the on-going costs?

Your rabbit will need lots of things each month to keep them healthy and happy. This will include things like:



- Health checks and booster vaccinations
- Food
- Toys & enrichment
- Pet insurance
- Flea and worm treatment
- Flystrike prevention

It is estimated that the average monthly cost for a pair of rabbits is **£70**.

What's not included?

These figures don't include any vets fees that might arise as a result of injury or illness.

These could vary over the lifetime of your rabbit but could include preventative treatments such as regular dental treatment to maintain the length and health of a rabbits teeth, treatment for fly-strike etc.



Example Procedure Costs

Dental

Initial consultation	£44.00
Sedation	£20.90
Anaesthesia	£33.50
Hospital nursing care	£50.10
Medical waste disposal	£ 4.00
Examination	£14.50
Dentistry	£37.00
Pain relief	£10.73
Total	£214.73

Flystrike

(Figures do not include the cost of a possible euthanasia)

Initial consultation	£44.00
Hospital care - 24 hours including nursing	£73.60
Medication for pain and gut mobility	£77.04
IV fluids	£95.75
Deep clean of rear end	£41.30
Vet checks in hospital	£31.00
Pain relief to take home	£10.73
Total	£373.42

Figures calculated in August 2019 from Rowan Veterinary Centre Ltd

Other information and figures contained within this leaflet were calculated in 2017 using rates available for products online and have been used in the 2017 and 2018 PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Reports and are widely referenced.

Consulting Times

Hillock Lane Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7pm

Saturday
8.30am to 1pm



Blackpool Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 6pm

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Blackpool



The Cost of Owning a Rabbit

Rowan Veterinary Centre

"where pets come first"

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