

\$4,000 for kit and cavoodle – the true cost of furry presents this Christmas

- Popular cavoodles are second only to a pony as the most expensive pet to buy and set up
- Goldfish the most affordable option at \$117 for a pair

Thursday 22 December 2016: Designer pets could be setting Santa back over \$4,000 between the cost of the pet and its basic needs like vaccinations, food, toys and bedding, says financial comparison site Mozo.com.au.

Mozo crunched the numbers on buying and setting up popular pets this Christmas, finding that while ponies gallop ahead with costs of over \$17,000, pedigree pooches can cost over \$4,000 while purebred kittens are just shy of \$3,000 to purchase and set up.

“While many kids may dream of a pony for Christmas, Santa will be saddling families with substantial costs such as agistment which can cost as much as \$12,000 a year and the basic kit which is well over \$1,000,” says Mozo Director Kirsty Lamont.

“We are urging Santa to consider the true cost of furry Christmas gifts before dropping a puppy or kitten down the chimney, as the purrfect addition to a household may actually be a pair of goldfish, which come in under \$120 to buy and set up, or a couple of guinea pigs or rabbits, which come in under \$400.”

“For families desperate for a dog, Santa would be barking mad not to consider a rescue greyhound with total costs under \$1,100, compared to over \$3,000 for the popular golden retriever.”

“A rescue cat or kitten is an even more af-fur-dable option with total costs just over \$600 compared with nearly \$3,000 for a Persian cat, and there’s the added bonus of knowing you gave a needy kitty a loving home.”

Mozo says the most budget-friendly pets are often lower maintenance, which can make them a great option for a first pet or fickle child.

“Parents should paws to consider whether their child is really going to keep up the hard work needed to look after a dog or cat as they may well be stuck cleaning litter trays or walking the dog after the Christmas cheer wears off,” says Lamont.

Moza Christmas Pet Cost Comparison

Pet	Cost to purchase	Cost of setup and initial maintenance	Total cost
2 Goldfish	\$7.98	\$108.89	\$116.87
2 Hermit Crabs	\$15.98	\$146.19	\$162.17
2 Guinea Pigs	\$80	\$259.43	\$339.43
2 Mini Lop Rabbits	\$98	\$285.93	\$383.93
Ferret	\$195	\$315.89	\$510.89

Rescue Cat/Kitten	\$150	\$466.14	\$616.14
Children's Python	\$199	\$691.45	\$890.45
Rescue Greyhound	\$400	\$692.58	\$1,092.58
Sphynx cat	\$2,000	\$670.01	\$2,670.01
Persian Cat	\$2,300	\$666.14	\$2,966.14
Golden retriever	\$2,300	\$942.58	\$3,242.58
Dachshund	\$2,500	\$921.58	\$3,421.58
Cavoodle	\$3,250	\$921.58	\$4,171.58
Pony	\$3,500	\$14,355.60	\$17,855.60

Source: Mozo.com.au.

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Notes:

Mozo compared the costs online of purchasing the animal/s and relevant set up items such as bedding, enclosure, boarding and feeding, initial food, bowls, toys, enrichment items, standard maintenance products and regular medications. Research was undertaken on 2 December 2016. The comparison did not include vet costs outside of standard vaccinations. Costs are a guide only and households should research the cost and time investment.

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