

A Cat from the Animal Shelter

Key financial idea ★ “Free” gifts or special offers (financial incentives) can influence our decisions.

You need ★ a classmate

Activity

Courtney's story

Rawinia's talk about animal shelters made me realise how hard the people there work to save pets. I wanted to get a cat from our local animal shelter, but Mum and Dad suggested that I check out all the costs first.

Courtney finds out that the average vet clinic costs for cats are:

- ★ Deworming: \$2.20 every 3 months
- ★ Vaccinations: \$53 each year
- ★ Desexing: male cat \$60, female cat \$90.
(Some vets do this at a discount for animal shelters.)
- ★ Flea treatment: \$36 every 3 months.

Food for a cat costs up to \$6 a week.



Courtney then goes to her local animal shelter:

How much does it cost to adopt one of your cats?

It costs \$70 to adopt an adult cat. Your cat will have been desexed, vaccinated, dewormed, and treated for fleas. It will have boarded with us for at least 10 days. Some cats are here for up to 3 months.





- 1 a. How much has it cost the animal shelter so far to care for Bliss?
b. What is the difference between what Courtney will pay to adopt her cat and the costs to the animal shelter?
- 2 If Courtney bought an 8-month-old female cat from a pet shop for \$100, had her desexed and vaccinated, bought a 3 month course of worm and flea treatment, and fed the cat for 4 weeks, what would that cost her?
- 3 Discuss with a classmate:
 - a. What are the financial advantages for Courtney of adopting a cat from the animal shelter?
 - b. Why do you think the animal shelter isn't charging Courtney the full costs?
 - c. What other hidden costs would there be for the animal shelter?
 - d. Where do you think the animal shelter gets money from to look after animals and cover the extra costs?

Reflective question ★ How does choosing a cat from an animal shelter support the shelter in its work?