

Guinea Pig

Pets require a lot of attention and expense which could be why much recent research indicates that Boys who grow up with the RESPONSIBILITY of a pet make better Fathers.

If you have a warm basement and can't have a dog or cat this guy is it.

Mice, Gerbils and hamsters all bite. Rats are much more friendly but there is something about a rat (even the colored ones) that just isn't cuddly...at least not to me. Guinea Pigs on the other hand seem to like being handled.



Cost: The ASPCA says the minimum cage size for two guinea pigs (preferably two females) is 3'x3'. The cost of such a cage is about \$50. A cage measuring 4'x4' (about 60\$) or larger is much better. Very adequate cages can be made by connecting squares of wire mesh into a cube with the bottom left open and then placed over a plastic tray 4-6 inches deep. Food runs about \$75 a year, plus \$25 annually for toys and treats, and \$400 per year for litter and bedding material. Many animal shelters will take your name and call when they get guinea pigs. A child who wants a pet should be kept aware of both the cost and time requirements.

Realistic Care requirements: Check out the internet but average requirements are five minutes a day for food and water plus about an hour every five days to clean the cage and add new bedding. Caring for a pet is not easy nor cheap. It is however a very good way to learn the value of living things.

The scripture lesson is that there is a cost to being a Christian. We have to be willing to put aside our own selfish interests (die to ourselves) and live our lives for Christ. Luke 14:28

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? (NIV)

This does not mean giving up food, or a nice car and running around in sackcloth. We Do not win Christ's approval by giving up things. It does mean that we learn to sense His Presence in our heart and that we respond to that presence. Being a Christian is being in a relationship, but there is a cost. Jesus paid the cost of loving us. We must be willing to pay the cost of loving him. I am not a theologian and do not claim to be but feel that in preaching Christ to young people we do them a disservice when we do not let them know that being a Christian can sometimes have a cost attached.