

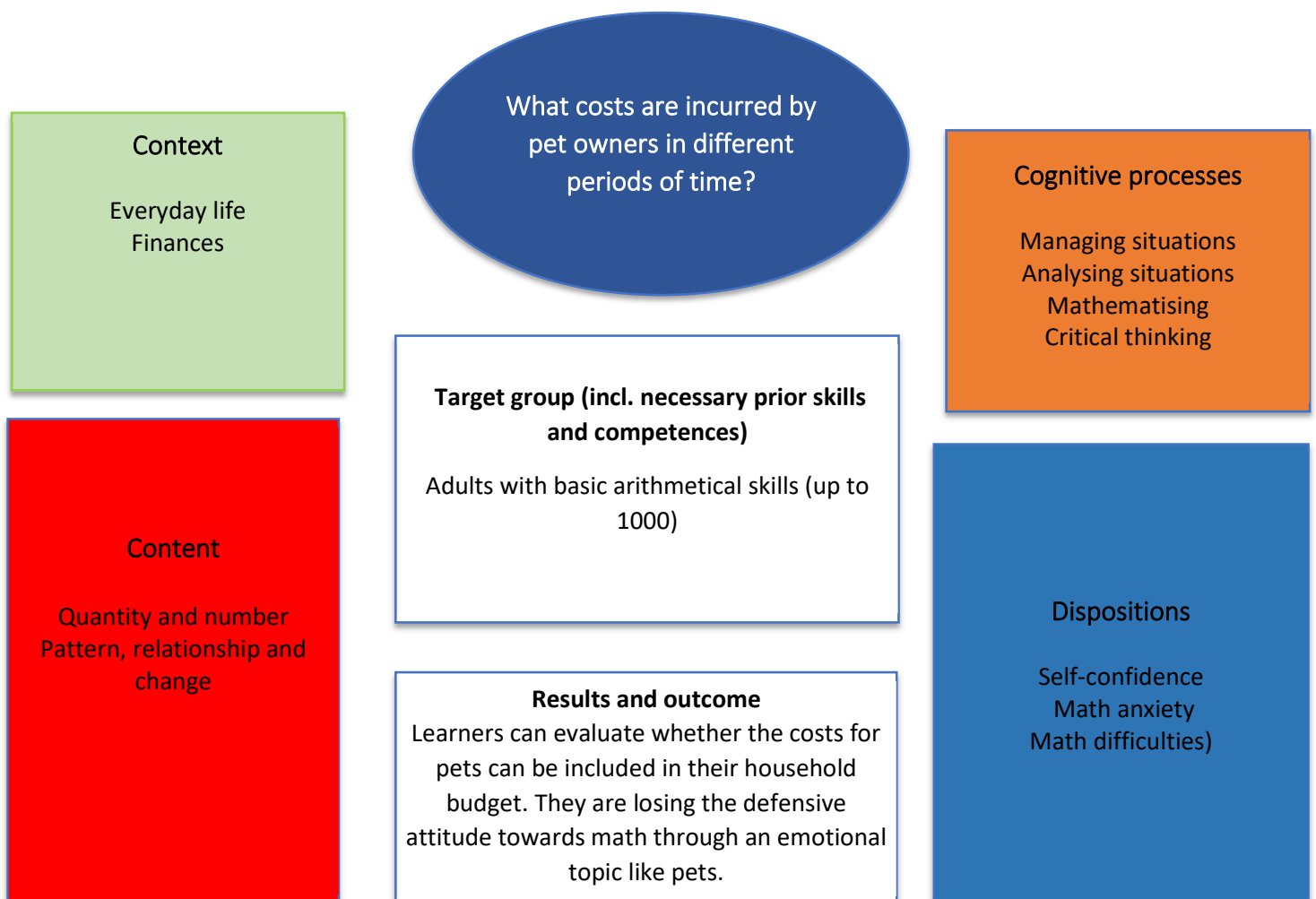
PETS COST MONEY

The true financial commitment of pet ownership

We love pets! Pets are kept in almost every 2nd household in Austria. However, pets are not only great joy for their owners, but they also cost a lot of money – it's not only the purchase costs but also the expenses for food, accommodation, grooming products, toys, healthcare, ...

It pays to think carefully about the cost of a pet before deciding to buy one to avoid unpleasant surprises later on. Unfortunately, it happens again and again that pets end up in animal shelters because the costs were underestimated.

Overview "PETS COST MONEY"



Main information	
Content	Reading simple tables, pie charts and text tasks Mathematical text comprehension
Target group	(Young) adults with their own income who... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are familiar with the number range up to 1000. • can do simple basic arithmetic operations. • Understand common quantitative representations and use this information to make decisions
Learning intention	What is the intention of adults to face this problem? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Numeracy for personal and private purposes
Duration	Approx. 4-5 lessons
Material and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets • Brochures for price comparison
Group size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 10 people
Problem definition	Many people want a pet but are not aware of the financial consequences. When they realize that the costs are too high, many pets end up in an animal shelter.
Working questions	<p>Which kind of pets and how many do Austrians have? What different costs can be incurred for a pet? (vet, food, ...)</p> <p>How to create budget planning? How to estimate of the total costs of a pet? How to interpret pie charts? How to understand tables? How to deepen the understanding of mathematical text tasks?</p>
Learning outcomes and results	The teaching units are intended to help to give future pet owners a critical understanding of this topic. They should enable them to calculate the additional costs in their own household budget.
Reference to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)	A1

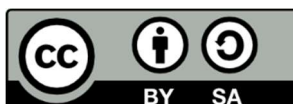


Working plan

Time (minutes)	Description of content/ activities	Material	Methodical and didactic information ¹
30'	Activation Which pets do you know? Brainstorming-> Pets in different countries Favourite pets?	Photos and pinboard to hang up	Cognitive activation
45'	Estimation The learners estimate the number of pets in Austria (federal states). Assign cards with numbers to the corresponding pets (pinboard).	Colored cards, pinboard	Collaborative learning Questioning
60'	Reading tables and diagrams The learners read different tables and diagrams and compare the information to their estimations.	Worksheets with pie charts and tables (Appendix 1)	Hands on learning Collaborative learning
60'	Calculating costs- First purchase for a kitten, part I Clarification of terms in plenary; independent calculation by the participants. Subsequently, joint control by calculating on the whiteboard.	Worksheet – Costs: first purchase for a kitten (Appendix 2)	Hands on learning
30'	Calculating costs- First purchase for a kitten, part II The learners compare the prices of different items using brochures. They discuss the results in plenum.	Brochures, Worksheet (Appendix 2, task 2)	Multiple exposure
45'	Calculating veterinary costs for a cat Clarification of terms in plenary. Learners work in small groups and calculate the veterinary costs. The trainer assists the groups individually.	Worksheet - Veterinary costs for a cat (Appendix 3)	Collaborative learning

¹ for description and explanation of kinds of tasks, HITS and other background information please consult the teacher's/user's guide.

10'	<p>Estimating the general costs of a pet over its lifetime The learners discuss in plenary which pet causes the highest costs during its lifetime.</p>	Worksheet - Costs of a pet (Appendix 4)	Questioning
30'	<p>Transfer Discussion The learners are aware of the fact that the costs for a pet are not only limited to the costs of food. They are aware of the suffering of animals in shelters and know that dealing with the costs at an early stage will save the animals a lot of suffering. They are able to make informed decisions when it comes to whether and which pet to buy.</p>		



Suggestions for teachers/users

The example presented here should be considered as exemplary and inspirational material presenting a guideline with a high range of possibilities of adapting those suggestions to a specific group of learners or an individual learner with his or her very personal requirements.

In concrete terms, the example “Pets cost money” could be adapted these ways:

- Duration: Depending on the learners’ prior knowledge, the duration of this example can vary. The topic of percentages might to be new for some learners and could also take more time.
- Further or additional material: To illustrate percentages, additional material i.e., Montessori materials could be useful. This example can be combined with other examples aiming to keep track of one’s own expenses i.e., “Keep an eye on your expenses”.
- Learning setting: If there are learners who are owners of pets, let them share their experience with the group. This might be motivating and enriching for the group.

Our educational activities aim at numeracy skills being not only memorized, but first of all being practiced and functionally used by the learners in daily life or/and vocational situations. It is therefore recommended to implement the idea of HITS² (higher impacts of teaching skills) as far and often as possible: ...

- ... work with concrete and authentic material that learners will recognize from everyday life situations.
- ... ask the learners questions and let them raise questions themselves. It can be crucial to discuss numeracy themes, contexts and numbers.
- ... think of possible ways of transfer: The learners reflect on their own attitude towards pets. Understanding the real costs and being able to estimate them for a pet will help the learners to make informed decisions.

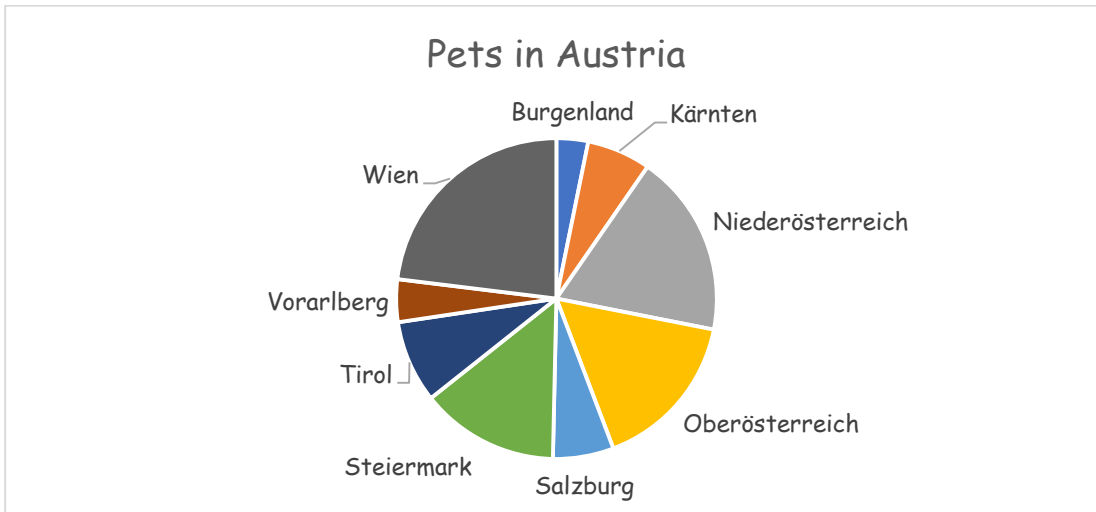
² For general information and explanation on HITS please see teacher’s/user’s guide



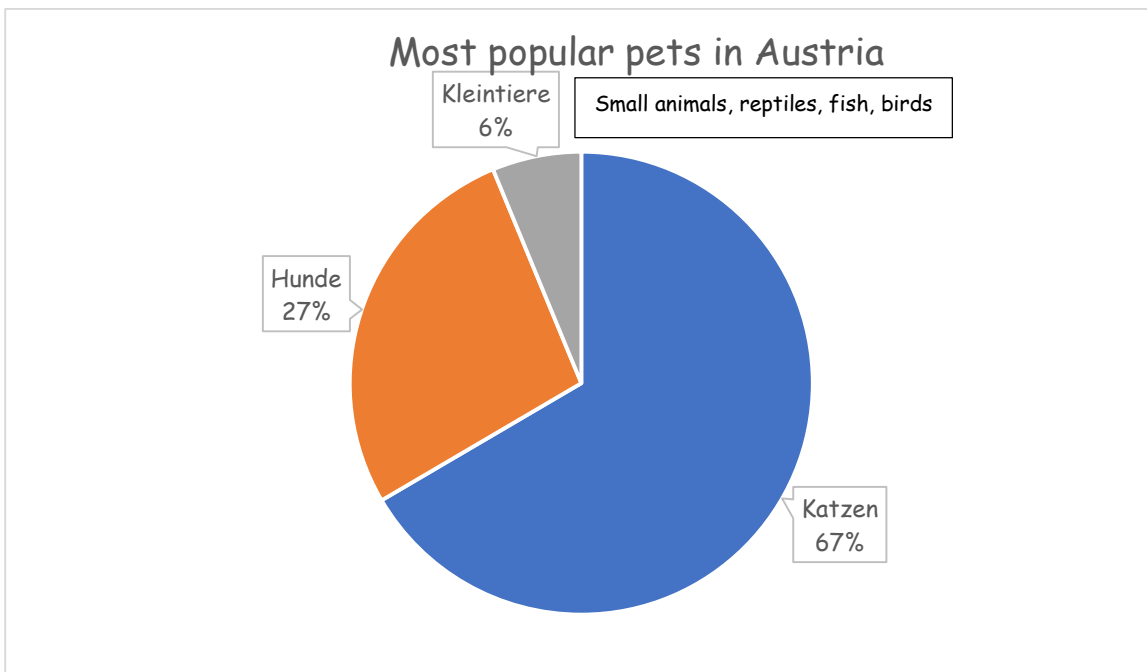
Appendix 1

Pets in Austria

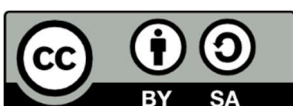
Households with pets per federal state



Types of pets in Austria



https://www.statistik.at/fileadmin/pages/340/ke19_haustiere_korr.pdf [17.02.2024]



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Pets in Austria

Hautiere in Österreich



Rund **1,39 Mio** Privathaushalte in Österreich haben Haustiere.
In diesen Haushalten leben insgesamt **1.537.850 Katzen** und/oder **629.120 Hunde**.

Bundesland	Anzahl der Haushalte (in 1.000)	Von 100 Haushalten haben ... ein oder mehrere ...						
		Haustier/e	Hund/e	Katze/n	Reptilien, Fische	Vögel	Kleintiere	andere Haustier/e
Österreich	3 969.3	35	13	22	5	2	4	2
Burgenland	126.8	43	(23)	(25)			(13)	
Kärnten	255.3	40	(17)	28			(8)	
Niederösterreich	733.4	45	20	28			13	
Oberösterreich	639.8	39	11	29			10	
Salzburg	244.2	28	(9)	(16)			(9)	
Steiermark	553.7	39	15	28			9	
Tirol	330.4	34	(11)	22			(10)	
Vorarlberg	169.8	33	(10)	(24)			(8)	
Wien	915.8	22	9	10			7	

Anzahl der Haushalte mit Haustieren



Ausgaben für Haustiere

Haushalte mit Haustieren geben im Schnitt pro Monat ... Euro für Futter, Tierbedarf u.ä. aus:

Insgesamt	74.8
davon für	
Tiernahrung	37.9
Tierarzt, u.ä.	24.5
Haustierbedarf	7.4
Anschaffung	5.0

Monatliche Verbrauchsausgaben für Haustiere (in Euro)

Ausgaben für Haustiere	Haushalte, in denen ... leben						
	ausschließlich			Katze & Hund	Hund & andere	Katze & andere	Katze & Hund & andere
	Hund/e	Katze/n	andere				
Insgesamt	88.5	53.0	46.6	105	(170)	72.3	(147)
darunter Tiernahrung	47.0	31.8	(9.4)	65.2	(47.2)	38.0	(65.3)

Q: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Konsumerhebung 2019/20. - Werte, bei denen die Anzahl der Haushalte (nicht hochgerechnet) zwischen 20 und 100 liegen werden in Klammern dargestellt.

Erratum: Korrektur Verbrauchsausgaben, Spalte Hund/e und Katze/n - 11/2023.

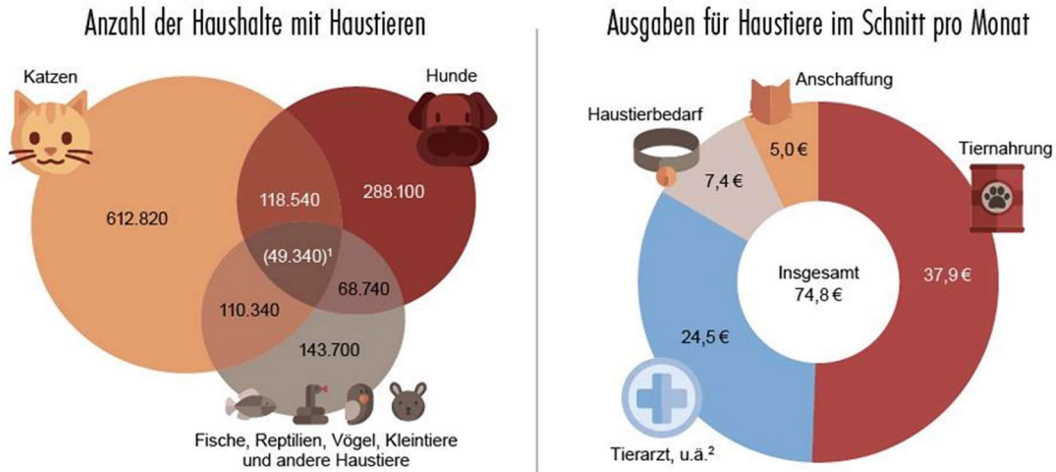
[ke19_haust_animals_corr.pdf \(statistik.at\)](#), [17.02.2024]



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Pets in Austria 2019/2020

Haustiere in Österreich 2019/2020

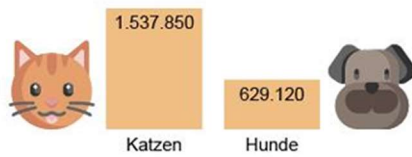


Q: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Konsumerhebung 2019/20. 1) Werte, bei denen die Anzahl der Haushalte (nicht hochgerechnet) zwischen 20 und 100 liegen werden in Klammern dargestellt. 2) Beinhaltet unter anderem Ausgaben für Tiersalon, -friseur, -pension oder Hundeschule. – Erstellt am 04.10.2021.

[Pets.pdf \(statistik.at\)](#), [17.02.2024]

Haushalte mit Katzen in Österreich 2019/2020

Rund 1,39 Mio. Haushalte haben Haustiere, in diesen leben insgesamt:



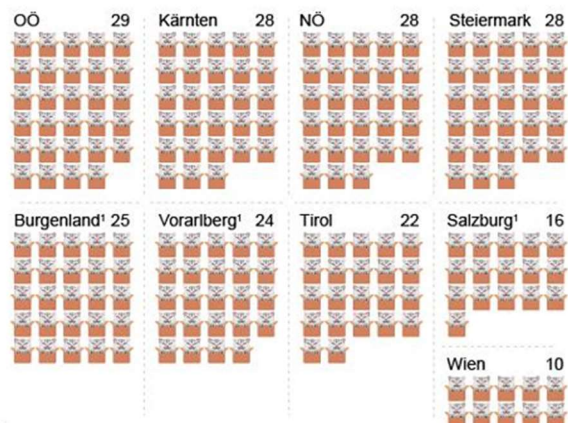
612.820 Haushalte mit nur Katzen



Monatliche Verbrauchsausgaben für Katzen: insgesamt 89 €

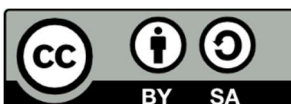


Von 100 Haushalten haben ... eine oder mehrere Katzen je Bundesland



Q: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Konsumerhebung 2019/20. – 1) Geringe Fallzahlen. – Erstellt am 06.08.2021.

[Cats.pdf \(statistik.at\)](#); [17.02.2024]



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Appendix 2

Costs- First purchase for a kitten

You can find some offers for your kitten in a brochure³ :



Feeding bowls
€ 13,99



Cat lounger Lennie
€ 24,99



Carrying
basket



Cat litter 10l
€ 39,99



Cat litter box
€ 15,99



Plush mice 2 pieces
€ 3,99



Cat tunnel
€ 11,99



Toy
€ 29,99



Automatic
feeder



Food 1,02 kg
€ 4,99



Food 4,08 kg
€ 37,99



Food 1,60 kg
€ 12,64

³ From various brochures (on 9.2.2024)



Task 1:

You will need the following items (buy as cheaply as possible):

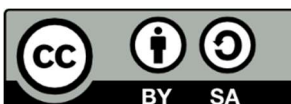
First estimate the approximate amount. Is € 100.00 enough? Then calculate the exact amount in the list.

Product	Quantity	Price
Cat litter box	1	
Cat litter	1	
Toys	1	
Food		
Feeding bowls	1	
Total		

Think about what else your cat might need.

Task 2:

Search for cat food offers from the brochures and compare!



Appendix 3

Veterinary costs for a cat

Your cat needs to go to the vet. It must be neutered and needs vaccinations (once a year).

	Costs
Neutering cat	€ 77,--
Neutering tomcat	€ 48,--
Vaccination (5-fold)	€ 43,--
Rabies vaccination	€ 20,--
Deworming	€ 15,--
Consultation	€ 24,--
Consultation with examination	€ 28,--
Blood sample	€ 59,--
Dental treatments	€ 68,--

Your cat has to be neutered and it needs the 5-fold vaccination. You also have a consultation (with an examination). How much do you have to pay?

You have your cat vaccinated once a year and against rabies. The vet should also deworm your cat. Your cat is now 6 years old. How much money have you already spent so far?

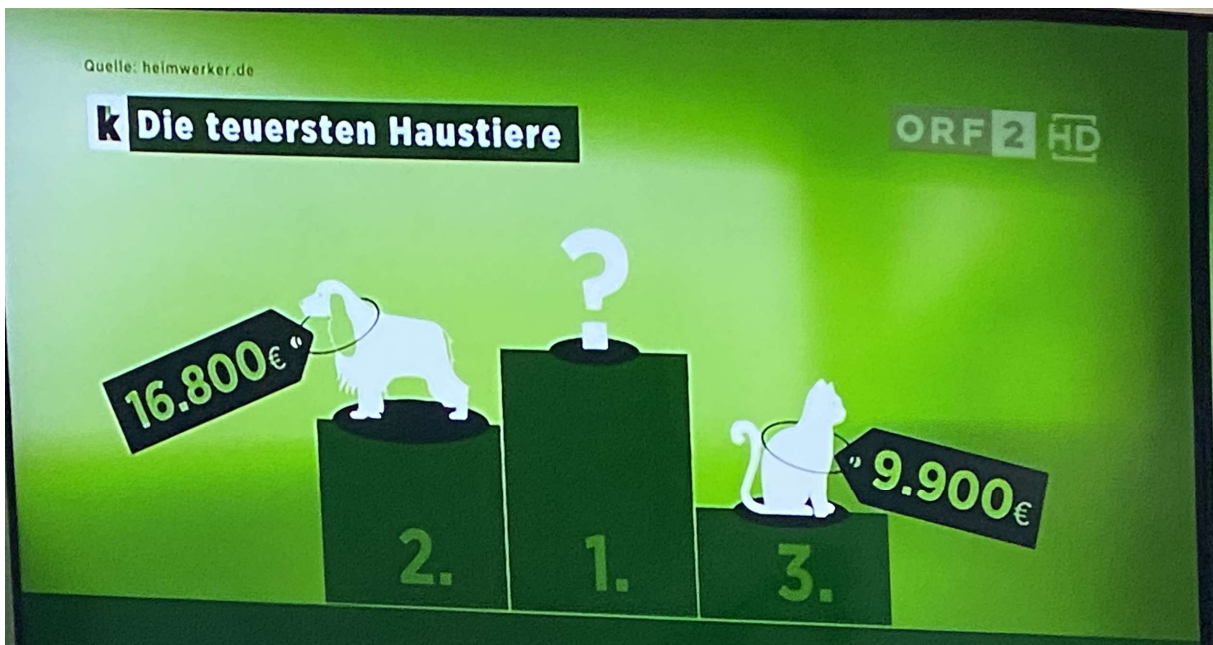
Veterinary clinic Dr. Peter Schön (tierklinik-schoen.at) on 14.2.2024



Appendix 4

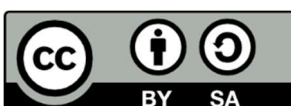
How much does an animal cost in relation to its lifetime?

Different animals live for different life expectancies. What do you think are the most expensive pets in Austria (based on their average life expectancy)?⁴



(Solution: the tortoise, it lives for approx. 120 years and has cost approx. €30,000 during this time)

⁴ Program Konkret on ORF2 on 12.2.2024



This material was produced in the Erasmusplus project **Numeracy in Practice**, projectnumber 2021-1-NL01-KA220-ADU-000 026 292. In this project, 11 partners in 11 countries worked together in designing, evaluating and improving the materials. All materials can be found on the website (www.cenf.eu).



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