

Figure 5.3: Food Cost Sheet

Animal: _____

Food costs for animals can vary drastically. You can find food for an ant farm in a kitchen. An ant farm requires very little maintenance, whereas a guinea pig may require hay and grass pellets, as well as fresh food daily to help with digestion. The frequency of feeding, as well as food costs, can play large factors in deciding which classroom animal works for you.

Food	Where You Will Purchase or Source Item	Cost
Kaytee brand guinea pig food	Petco or local pet supply store	\$15.50
Mealworms	Petco or local pet supply store (starting colony only)	\$4.99
	Total:	\$

Food	Feeding Schedule	Amount of Food or Feeding	Total Amount per Week
Example: Kaytee brand guinea pig food	Two times per week	1 cup per feeding	2 cups

To calculate your total food costs, you will need a conversion chart or the internet.

Example: Guinea pig food comes in a 2-lb. bag. Based on the preceding data, the guinea pig requires 2 cups of food per week. This would be 16 oz. per week. A 2-lb. bag is 32 oz. Therefore, 2 lbs. of guinea pig food will last for two weeks.

*Estimate smaller food sources such as mealworms.

Using the preceding example:

Total Quantity of Food (package or source)	Amount per Feeding	Total Feedings per Week	Frequency for Purchasing or Sourcing Food
2 lbs. (32 oz.)	8 oz.	Two times per week	Every two weeks