



The Cost of Caring for a Dog

Estimates based on 2005-2006 APPMA National Pet Owners Survey and other sources. Numbers are estimates/averages.

The financial expense of having a dog is often overlooked by prospective new dog owners. Let's face it – pets are expensive! We strongly encourage you to consider your family's budget and financial resources before making a commitment to an animal. All the essentials of responsible pet ownership, such as professional medical care, quality food and pet supplies, cost money – only your love is free.

Consider the following cost estimates and averages:

Expense Category	Average per APPMA study 2005-2006
Surgical Vet Visits	\$574
Food	\$241
Kennel Boarding	\$202
Routine Veterinary Care	\$211
Grooming	\$107
Vitamins / Supplements	\$123
Treats	\$68
Toys	\$45
Average Yearly Cost	\$1,571
Ten-Year Average Cost	\$15,710

The costs listed above cover only "essential" expenses, and do not include items such as pet insurance or the cost of training classes. Depending on what kind of dog you choose, as well as the situations you encounter, owning a dog can cost you anywhere from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars per year.

When considering your selection, remember that puppies require more routine medical attention than adult dogs, although senior dogs (over eight years of age) will require more veterinary care than younger animals.

Size is also a factor in calculating overall cost over a lifetime, with most big dogs requiring more food. Medical expenses are often higher with a large dog, due to higher dosing requirements for medications. However, smaller dogs will often live much longer than large or giant breeds, requiring that the costs be considered over a longer period of time.