

COSTS OF OWNING A DOG (based on figures from 2008)

	Initial	Lifetime*	Total
Veterinary Bills	150	880	1030
Training	50-100	550-2200**	600-2300
Registration fee (license)	15	--	15
Food	--	4400	4400
Preventative medication	--	2200	2200
Grooming Supplies	130	1100	1230
Leash, collar, toys	100	1100	1200
Flea and pest treatment		880	880
Total	445-495	11,110-12,760	11,555-13255
*Based on 11-year lifespan **If you continue training			

Dogs, like children, need love, training, food, medical care and some miscellaneous items during their lifetime. Before you commit yourself to the responsibilities of a pet, please take into consideration the long-term costs. Costs include:

These are estimates provided there are no health problems, but if your dog destroys or damages your possessions or a neighbor's, or if your dog develops health problems, you may have to add hundreds of dollars to these costs.

Note: costs don't include the purchase price of the dog, which can range from \$300 to \$5,000. Figures are based on a study done in January 1990.

TO BREED OR NOT TO BREED

So you think you have the most dynamite dog on earth and you want to breed it -- and you think you can make money? Well here is a list of your expenses for that "special litter" that you hope will bring you top dollar. Veteran breeders of quality dogs do not consider breeding unless they have a waiting list of cash deposits in advance for an average-sized litter. Dog breeding for first-time breeders that have no reputation and no referrals to help them find buyers is not a money-making proposition. And what happens if your puppies don't sell? Do they get dumped at the shelters -- that are already overcrowded with unwanted dogs and puppies? Please think carefully before embarking on this type endeavor and take a visit to a local shelter. Then ask yourself, do I need to produce more puppies?