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# Cost of Owning a Dog

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We all know dogs need to eat, but they also need annual, routine medical care. The reality of having a pet is that you are the guardian of that dependent animal. You are responsible for the cost of your dog's needs over its lifetime (the average is 10-14 years). Please do not adopt a pet if you cannot realistically afford to take care of it and certainly do not adopt multiple animals if caring for them will put a strain on your finances.

**FOOD:** Dogs need to eat commercial dog food, not table scraps. The size of the dog impacts the cost of dog food. Dogs with medical conditions, such as kidney disease, liver disease, allergies or sensitive GI tracts would cost more to feed. Treats and toys are recommended for a happy, well adjusted dog.

✓ **\$25-\$100+ a month**

**MEDICAL:** Routine medical care of a dog would include a physical, vaccinations, Heartworm test and preventatives.

- ✓ **\$30-\$60 a year** - physical
- ✓ **\$30-\$80 a year** - vaccines
- ✓ **\$30-\$50 a year** - Heartworm test
- ✓ **\$6-\$30 a month** - Heartworm preventative
- ✓ **\$12-\$45 a year** - flea preventative
- ✓ **\$15-\$30 a year** - fecal test

## **Total Annual Costs:**

**\$490-\$1825 a year**

(If your dog were to get sick, of course,  
the cost would be much higher.)