

# The Price of a New Pup

It's a sad fact that in a shaky economic climate some people give up their family pet before they forgo the Foxtel. Recent statistics showing an increase in surrenders to shelters, both here and overseas, made us examine what expenses a dog owner would incur annually. If you're reading this, then you're probably already a pet owner and are fully aware of the costs you accrue in just one year. We've compiled this guide in case you've a friend who is desperate for the puppy in the window and hasn't thought through the financial commitment.

A purebred puppy from a reputable, ethical breeder will be around \$800 to \$2,000. You can expect to pay \$200 to \$400 if you adopt from a shelter. Costs can mount rapidly from there, with expenses for large or high-maintenance breeds racking up towards the \$2,000 mark annually.

Among the one-time costs new owners can expect after bringing home a dog:

- The basics – food and water bowls, a leash and toys, can cost \$50 to \$80 even if you're conservative. Crates and appropriate bedding can cost an additional \$50 to \$350, depending on the size. Nice-looking bed that will fit into your décor–budget for \$80 to \$175.
- On the go – a car safety harness will cost you \$30 to \$50. An engraved ID tag will be around \$15.
- Council registration – councils require your dog to be licensed, which is around \$150 for a non-desexed dog or around \$40 for a desexed one.
- Desexing – depending on the size and gender of your dog you can conservatively budget for \$250 to \$400. This would include the initial consult, the operation, pain management and a follow-up consult. This fee would not apply if you adopt from a reputable shelter as your dog would already be desexed, microchipped and wormed.
- Training – a four-week puppy preschool course for basic training, advice and socialisation will be around \$150.

Recurring costs include:

- Food – what you can expect to pay to feed your new pet will depend on the size of your dog and the quality of the food. A 3kg bag of superpremium dry food will be around \$35, 6kg will be \$60, and expect to pay \$120 for a 15kg bag. Brands found in supermarkets will be \$7 to \$13 for a 3kg bag. Raw, meaty bones from your local butcher will be just a few bucks a week.
- Health care – expect to pay \$200 to \$300 a year for basic vet bills, including an annual exam and preventive care for common problems such as heartworm, fleas and ticks.


An annual pet insurance policy will be around \$500 upwards. Shop around for policies, coverage options and good health benefits you can take advantage of. Some policies give you an annual rebate for your heartworm, worm, flea and tick medication if purchased at your vet's practice.

- Grooming – thought that Schnoodle, Groodle, Multi-Shitz, Cocker-Doodle-Oodle was low maintenance? Think again. These puppies need regular grooming and clipping. High-maintenance dogs will need to be groomed every six weeks or so. Expect to pay \$30 to \$80 per session depending on coat length, condition and style of clip.
- Walkers and daycare – extras such as doggie daycare can cost \$50 per day in Sydney. Walkers typically charge \$20 to \$30 for a walk-and-play romp for an hour or so.
- Further training – basic obedience at your local dog club will be around \$150 for the year and that's if you attend every weekend. More serious training and/or behavioural advice will set you back \$450 for a consult and management program.
- Boarding – rates can vary depending on the level of play time and style of accommodation. Expect to spend \$30 to \$80 per night.

Sure, you can do some cost-cutting and cutting of corners–go without grooming, super-premium food, insurance or training. But in the end there are some real costs involved in maintaining a healthy and happy dog.

**If you have a puppy, you need...**

the **ultimate puppy toolkit™**



*"My goal will be for every puppy to go out with your Toolkit as well as attending the classes. They have great visuals to help with the homework. I have handouts, but the pictures say it all."*

Amy LeVatte RVT  
Balmoral Park Veterinary Clinic

Your puppy has a "golden window" of opportunity. Scientific studies show that birth to 16 weeks is the crucial learning period when puppies can most easily take in new experiences. After 16 weeks of age, this window closes, and it is much harder for dogs to adapt. The Ultimate Puppy Toolkit™ is designed to help you make the most of this very important period so that you can raise the happy, well adjusted dog you have always wanted.

PROFILES INCLUDE:

<b>Socialize</b>	<b>House training</b>
<b>Prevent</b>	<b>Poster</b>
<b>Games</b>	<b>Pocket pal</b>
<b>Junior obedience</b>	

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Wholesale enquiries contact Beau Pets Australia, tel. 03 9540 3533 or email info@beaupets.com.au www.beaupets.com.au



Puppy from registered breeder .....	\$1000
beds; bowls; leash; collar.....	\$150
harness & tag.....	\$45
lifetime registration .....	\$40
desexing .....	\$300
puppy pre-school .....	\$150
food.....	\$400
vet check/shots etc .....	\$300
insurance.....	\$400
walking/dog nanny/daycare .....	\$650
training .....	\$150
holiday boarding 7 nights .....	\$245
total .....	\$3830



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