



Can You Afford a Dog?

Many people rush into buying a puppy on impulse without considering the actual costs involved. When taking on a dog you also assume a duty of care to the dog to keep it fed, trained, warm, safe and physically healthy. This is a 12 year plus financial commitment that should not be taken lightly. Have you realistically assessed how a dog will impact your budget?

Outlined below is a list of the costs involved in your puppies first year of life:

Description	Approx. Cost
Initial Purchase Price	\$120.00 - \$800.00
Health Check (during first year)	\$45.00
Vaccinations	\$140.00
De-sexing	Female \$200.00 Male \$170.00
Heartworm Prevention (vaccination)	\$75.00
Micro-chipping	\$55.00
Intestinal Worming Tablets	\$25.00
Flea and Tick Prevention	\$15.00
Council Registration Fees	\$80.00
Puppy School	\$120.00
Obedience Course	\$130.00
Food	\$520.00
Toys	\$30.00
Collar and Lead	\$30.00
Car Harness	\$50.00
Crate	\$60.00
Play Pen or Kennel	\$100.00
Kong	\$25.00
ID Tag	\$15.00
Sundries (Brush, Bowls, Shampoo etc)	\$100.00
Bedding	\$50.00
Total - Not including initial purchase	Approx. \$1835.00

The costs above are approximations; please check with your vet regarding veterinary expenses. They are based on a medium sized breed and include everything you need to house and raise a physically and behaviourally healthy puppy.

Is it also important to room in your budget for other expenses such as:

Description	Approx. Cost
Emergency Medical Treatment	\$500.00 Plus
Kennel/Boarding Fees/ Pet Sitters	\$15.00-\$40.00 per day
Pet Insurance	\$30.00 - \$50.00 per month
Replacement of damaged property	Variable
Fencing	Variable
Grooming Fees	\$45.00-\$60.00 per visit



urban
DOG TRAINING

Phone **07 3390 8840**
 Fax **07 3890 8805**
 Mobile **0406 678 645**
 Email **danielle@urbandogtraining.com.au**
 Web **www.urbandogtraining.com.au**
 ABN **93 014 273 123**



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Once you get past the first year you there are ongoing costs. Consider the following annual costs:

Description	Approx. Cost
Health Check (minimum of annually)	\$45.00
Vaccination	\$80.00
Heartworm Prevention (annual vaccination)	\$75.00
Intestinal Worming Tablets	\$25.00
Flea and Tick Prevention	\$15.00
Council Registration Fees (assuming dog is desexed)	\$25.00
Food	\$520.00
Toys	\$20.00
Sundries (replace collars, leads, shampoo etc)	\$100.00
Total - Not including initial purchase of puppy	Approx. \$965.00

Over the life of your dog you can expect to pay around \$13000 just to keep your dog!



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