

COST\$ OF OWNING A LARGE DOG

DOG OWNERSHIP = RESPONSIBILITY

Owning a dog takes a commitment of time, effort, education and money. Dogs, like children, need love, attention, training, food, medical care, and some miscellaneous items during their lifetime. Before you commit yourself to the responsibility of a pet, please take into consideration the long term costs.

	INITIAL	ANNUAL	LIFETIME TOTAL
Veterinary Costs – vaccines, annual exam, annual fecal, heartworm test, dental cleaning, etc. *	\$150 - \$200	\$120 - \$300	\$1320 - \$3300
Microchip	\$60	--	\$60
Preventative Medication- Heartworm, Frontline, etc.	\$55	\$180	\$1980
Flea & Pest Control – Topical products, home treatments, etc.	--	\$40 per season	\$460
Food **	\$40	\$300 - \$500	\$3300 - \$5500
Obedience Training ***	Puppy Kindergarten \$75 - \$200 Group Lessons \$100 - \$300 One – On – One \$150 - \$500	\$100 - \$1000	\$1000 - \$3000
Crate	\$80 - \$300	--	\$80 - \$300
License Fee	\$10 - \$30	\$10 - \$30	\$110 - \$330
Grooming Supplies – Brushes, comb, nail clippers, shampoo, etc. This does not include visits to a professional groomer	\$140	\$50	\$690
Leashes and Collar	\$60		\$120
Miscellaneous – Toys, biscuits and treats, dog beds, food and water bowls, etc.	\$150	\$100	\$1250

TOTAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR ONE DOG FOR HIS LIFETIME \$10,000 - \$17,000

* Does not include emergencies or seriousness illnesses

** Varies depending on brand and quality of food

*** Depends on amount and type of training. All dogs need at least basic obedience or CGC training.

These are average costs based on northern CA prices. Some costs are from the AKC and Best Friends. These costs do not cover damage your dog may do to your possessions or property or to a neighbor's possessions or property.

For more information contact German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California, Inc. at www.savegsd.org.
or P.O. Box 8498, Emeryville, CA 94608.