

## Approximate Costs of Owning A Dog, Including a Golden Retriever

2013

**Puppy shots:** Your breeder will probably give your puppy its first set of puppy vaccinations. Your puppy will need two more visits for check ups and puppy shots, costing at least \$100 for each visit.

**Food:** at least \$60/month

**Spay/Neuter:** usually over \$350 depending on location and vet.

**Puppy Supplies:** Can be over \$200 before you even get your puppy home (bowls, collars, leashes, brushes, nail clippers, food, a book or two).

**Crate:** approx. \$100. You will need a large crate - 36 or 42 inches depending on how big your dog is expected to grow. It should include a divider panel which allows you to increase the size of the crate as pup grows. Your breeder should be able to help you with exact size you will need.

**Yearly Heartworm and Tick Preventatives:** at least \$200. Check with your vet to see if you live in an area with many cases of heartworm or lyme disease. If so, you will need a yearly blood test to check for heartworms and lyme from ticks, and either a daily or monthly heartworm and tick preventative pill (which is only given for warmer months in your area).

**Yearly Vet Check-up:** usually about \$100. Vaccinations should be given every 3 years now, so this mitigates some expense, but your dog should still be examined annually. When vaccinations are required, you can add on another \$200 at least. Budget extra for 'little' things that come up, such as worming medication, flea preventative (shampoo, powder). Medications for viruses, illness, hotspots or thyroid conditions can be several hundred dollars.

**Surgeries:** Surgeries if accidents occur, such as ACL injuries, or if your dog eats something that needs to be surgically removed, etc., can be many thousands of dollars plus the expense of post operation rehabilitation in the case of injuries.

**Pet Insurance:** Some people feel that, because of the increasing cost of veterinarian services these days, pet insurance is a good idea. If you decide to go this route, you are looking at a range of plan expense usually starting off in the \$30 to \$40 range per month.

**Obedience Classes:** Courses usually are 8 weeks, ranging in price from \$150 and up.

**Boarding at a Kennel:** Approx \$25/day. It is always a good idea to check out your local kennels should you ever need to kennel your dog in case of a family emergency or otherwise.