

## 21 Important Lifestyle and Financial Considerations Before Buying Your Puppy: A Checklist



Considering buying a dog? It's a bigger decision than you might think. While dogs are a terrific idea for many people, they are not necessarily a natural fit for everybody's lifestyle and pocketbook. Remember, there is a lot more to keep in mind than the purchase/adoption fee.

A dog involves a great deal of additional expenses, such as initial supplies (food and water dishes, leash, etc), as well as health care, and regular monthly bills for items such as food. Buying a dog should not be a spur of the moment decision. This is something that requires your serious attention and consideration before the adoption is made.






Of course, this report isn't trying to tell you that only millionaires can afford to own a dog. Naturally, that is not the case. And indeed, most people can make their budget work with a dog in their lives. However, it is important to note that there will be a number of costs that you may or may not find prohibitive, depending upon your choice of lifestyle. It's important that you research these costs so that you can make an informed decision when you select your dog.

It is safe to assume that every situation is different. Costs will vary from person to person, location to location, and lifestyle to lifestyle. While one person may want the most posh selections with all of the state-of-the-art pooch technologies, and others will be happy with only the basics. For this reason, nobody can tell you exactly how much *your* dog will cost over the next decade or so, but you can learn about the most important things

that you can research in your area, to discover their costs.

### In the beginning...

Use the following checklist to gauge your starting costs and identify the items that are most commonly required among new dog owners.

-  Your dog will have a price tag. Though it is technically an adoption, depending on whether you get your dog at a pet store, a breeder, or a Humane Society/rescue, you will have a certain cost to cover up front for ownership.
-  Vet bills – you'll need to make certain that your dog has a proper check up, is vaccinated, and is medicated for certain important issues like tick, flea, and heartworm prevention. Furthermore, it's always a good and humane idea to have your dog spayed or neutered.
-  Collar – you'll want a durable, non-tightening collar made of nylon or leather.
-  Leash – a six foot leash is a standard length. Leather is durable and easy on the hands, but nylon is also durable, is much cheaper, and comes in a larger variety of designs.
-  Food and water dishes – stainless steel or ceramic are the best types, since bacteria tend to grow rampant on plastic. Get something with a slip-

proof bottom.



Grooming tools – depending on your dog, this should include a brush, nail clippers, shampoo, and perhaps a comb.



Cleaning supplies – until your dog is housebroken, these will be a necessity.



A dog bed – there are many different types to choose from, **but** you'll likely want either a nest bed or a pillow bed for your pooch.



Crate – a crate is like a dog's bedroom. It is a safe place to go where s/he knows s/he can be alone and not be poked at or bothered. It's also a great way to keep Fido from chewing up the furniture while you're out.



Food – a good amount of high quality chow.



Toys – if you don't want your dog to chew up everything you own, you'd better give him or her a fun alternative.



Tags – this includes one with your contact information in case Fluffy should run off, and one with licensing and registration information, depending on the laws in your area.



Dog Training Course – the most effective way of training your dog.

Every month will require you to buy more food. Remember that the bigger your dog, the more s/he will eat.

### Take two and call me in the morning...

Puppies need approximately 6 vet visits in their first year. After that point, one-to-two is

about average. Check your local veterinarians for their cost estimates. It's always wise to keep money available in the off chance that there is an emergency. After all, humans aren't the only ones who can have accidents or come down with sudden illnesses that need a trip to the doctor.

### Everything else...

There are also other optional items that you may want to consider purchasing. These may actually be necessities, depending on your dog. For example, if your dog will be living exclusively in your backyard, a dog house will be essential for sleeping. These all depends on your lifestyle and your available finances:



A solid fence, at least 5 feet high



Dog house/ outdoor kennel



Doggie door



Gates for blocking doorways and stairways inside your home



Anti-chew solution



Boots, if you live in a snowy area or will be walking over very rough ground. This protects the pads of their feet from cuts, salt, and pain.



A grooming table

Some of these will be essential, others optional. It all depends on the life you intend to live with your dog. Remember, though, that each of these items comes with a cost that you'll need to consider before adopting your new companion.

You can find out more about keeping a puppy at <http://www.all-about-puppies.com>