

# How much does it Cost to Keep a Horse?

People often say it's not a horse that is expensive – it's everything that comes after. From building fences to selecting a truck and trailer, horse ownership is a lifestyle choice for many of us. With improvements in nutrition and health care, horses are living longer, productive lives. It's not uncommon to find horses living well into their late 20's and 30's. With this in mind, are you prepared to offer a life-long commitment to this horse?

Estimating an average cost for a horse is a bit tricky because pricing for major horse care items (such as hay and feed) varies by region, and season. The following, is a basic form to help you keep in mind and create a horse keeping budget. Please note that our prices are estimates only, we've left few blank lines for you to add items specific for your prospective horse, such as medication, supplies, tack or complementary therapies. Fill in the true costs to find out how much money it takes to care for a horse each year.

	Keeping a Horse	Partial Care Boarding	Full service Boarding	Your Cost
<b>Board</b>	N/A	\$400 / month \$4,800 / year	\$650 / month \$7,800 / year	_____/month x 12= ____/year
<b>Hay</b> The average horse maintained on forage (not pasture) eats 1.5 to 2.5% of its body weight per day in hay (between 18 and 30 pounds per day for 1,200lbs horse) depending on body type and workload. We've calculated costs based on an average of 20 pounds of forage daily.	\$525 / year	N/A	N/A	_____/month x 12= ____/year
<b>Feed</b> Feed provides calories and nutrients not available in hay. Availability varies by region; however, we've based our costs on feeding 3 pounds a day of a national brand.	\$390 / year	\$390 / year	N/A	_____/month x 12= ____/year
<b>Supplements</b> We based our calculations on the cost of a daily basic multivitamin supplement.	\$240 / year	\$240 / year	\$240 / year	_____/month x 12= ____/year
<b>Water</b> Water bills vary significantly depending on your location and water source.	Variable	N/A	N/A	_____/month x 12= ____/year
<b>Bedding</b> Bedding costs for horses vary by type, region, and quantity purchased. We've calculated our cost based on baled pine wood shavings.	\$1,092 / year	N/A	N/A	_____/month x 12= ____/year
<b>Waste Removal</b> Waste removal cost vary depending on how horses are managed ( stalls vs. turnout ) and regional waste management fees.	\$260 / year	N/A	N/A	_____/month x 12= ____/year
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Annual exam</b>	\$120 / year	\$120 / year	\$120 / year	_____/year
<b>Vaccinations</b>	\$60 / year	\$60 / year	\$60 / year	_____/year

<b>Deworming / Liceing</b>	\$100 / year	\$100 / year	\$100 / year	_____/year
<b>Dental Care</b>	\$250 / year	\$250 / year	\$250 / year	_____/year
<b>Farrier</b> Farrier costs vary based on a horse's individual needs. Some horses require a basic trim every eight weeks, while others need more technical shoeing every 5-6 weeks. We've based our estimates on standard shoeing at \$90 every 8 weeks.	\$720 / year	\$720 / year	\$720 / year	_____/year
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
<b>Insurance</b>	Varies	Varies	Varies	_____/year
<b>Emergency Fund</b> Many owners set aside money to help cover unexpected events, such as colic surgery, or ailments.	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	
<b>Other:</b>				
<b>Other:</b>				
<b>Other:</b>				
<b>Other:</b>				
<b>Other:</b>				
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,757</b>	<b>\$10,680</b>	<b>\$12,390</b>	

↓ **BELOW ONLY HAS TO BE COMPLETED IF GOING THROUGH ADOPTION PROCESS** ↓

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge I have read and understand the cost of owning a horse and do recognize that prices may exceed the estimated numbers provided above.

I CAN currently afford a horse.

I CANNOT currently afford a horse.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature