



What is the Cost of Providing for Them?

There are many expenses involved in horse ownership. The initial price of purchasing a horse is sometimes the only cost that people think about-and that cost can vary from a negligible amount to millions of dollars. But care expenses go far beyond that first exchange. Like other investments, such as real-estate or automobiles, the monthly expenditures on horse care will have many variables. Using the basic needs listed above as a guide, below is a list of rough monthly estimates.

- **Board:** Keeping your horse on your own pasture or property may eliminate one monthly fee, but keep in mind the cost of fence repairs and property up-keep. Otherwise, boarding a horse inside, in a run, or outside on someone else's property can range anywhere from \$100-\$600 per month. **\$1,200-\$7,200 annually**
- **Feed:** Again this cost can vary considerably, depending on if your horse eats from your own pasture in a warm climate for most of the year or if it is kept in a full-care boarding stable that does not pasture horses. Your horse may only eat hay or grass but, depending on activity, could require other concentrates. Hay costs are always fluctuating and can cost anywhere from \$2 per bale to over \$12 per bale. One horse can eat anywhere from half a bale to a full bale per day. The monthly cost of feeding one horse can range anywhere from \$20 per month (if your horse is eating on your pasture for half of the year) to \$365 per month if your horse eats one bale of hay per day. None of these figures count grain, since we are talking about the most basic needs, but grain usually costs between \$7 and \$20 per bag. **\$250-\$4,380 annually**
- **Vet Care:** Vaccinations, deworming and dental care are the basics for vet care. Dewormer might cost about \$10 four times per year, coming to \$40. Vaccinations with vet fee on a yearly basis can cost anywhere from \$50-\$100 and a teeth floating will generally run about the same, but might be done twice per year. That leaves us at about **\$200-\$350 annually**. Of course, this figure does not include any of the unexpected expenses you might incur if your horse falls ill or colics. An isolated incident of colic can cost anywhere from \$500-\$1,000.
- **Hoof Care:** Hoof care expenses can be a little more predictable if your horse does not need shoes. The cost of a trim can cost as little as \$25, but if you shoe your horse it will be closer to \$80. Special, corrective shoeing can be considerably more. Horses need this hoof care about every 6-8 weeks, so it can cost anywhere from **\$120-\$1,000 annually**.

These considerations do not include the cost of tack, supplies, transportation, and the many other things that you or your horse might need along the way. Needless to say, budgeting for horse ownership is a difficult task since costs can vary so dramatically.

ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATIONSM

10805 East Bethany Drive | Phone 303-696-4500
Aurora, Colorado 80014 | Fax 303-696-4599
www.ArabianHorses.org | info@ArabianHorses.org