

# des moines county **HUMANE SOCIETY**

## **The Cost of Owning a Dog What Potential Adoptive Parents Should Know**

Dogs do not go to college. They do not have elaborate weddings. They do not constantly outgrow clothes or bring home friends who empty your refrigerator.

But while the cost of raising a dog does not compare to raising a child, the financial cost of owning a dog might be much higher than many people believe, or have even thought about as excitement of bringing a dog home dominates their thoughts.

The adoption fee is just the start of a lifetime of expenses.

Those include:

Food \* Vaccines \* Vet bills \* Spay/neuter \* Bed \* Treats \* Chew bones \* Bowls \* Collars  
Leash \* City license \* Training \* Fence \* Vitamins \* Flea control \* Heartworm \* Shampoo  
Grooming \* Grooming tools \* Dental care \* Stain cleaner \* Waste disposal \* Training aids  
Deworming \* Boarding \* Crate \* Car restraint \* Toys

Some of these are one-time costs — spay/neuter or a fence, for example. Some are occasional expenses — grooming tools or bowls. But others are regular costs that add up month after month, year after year — food, vaccine, flea control, heartworm prevention.

There are, of course, ways to keep expenses down, and they vary depending on each person's situation. But there also are some dogs that require more maintenance than others, whether it is more extensive and more frequent grooming, or health issues that require frequent trips to the vet. And when as dogs age, vet care and other health expenses increase.

Over the lifetime of a 14-year-old dog, expenses can range from **\$5,000 to \$39,000**.

If you consider an adoption fee of a dog exorbitant, remember that is only the beginning. Please take the overall cost of owning a dog into consideration before taking on the responsibility of caring for and providing a loving home for an animal which relies solely on you for all of its needs.