ESTIMATING THE ANNUAL COST OF YOUR NEW HORSE
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DON’T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH!

Horse Care Expenses

In most cases, the care of the horse will far exceed the cost of the horse.

IF YOU HAVEN’T ALREADY PURCHASED A HORSE: SOME EXPENSES TO CONSIDER
- Scouting expenses
- Pre-purchase exam
- Brand inspection

HORSE CARE EXPENSES

Necessary Expenses
- $200 - $600/month/horse
- ↑ cost in Mortgage (~23%)
- ↑ cost in Property Taxes
- ↑ cost in HO Insurance
- ↑ cost in Utilities
- Manure Removal
  - Spreader or Removal?
  - $100 in Feed (Hay & Grain)
  - $90 in Bedding (bags)
  - $60 in Facility Maintenance
- What is your time worth?

Optional Expenses
- $150 in Annual Vaccinations
- $100 in Dental Care
- $30 in a Coggins Test
- $60 in De-Worming
- $800 in Farrier Expenses
  - (Full Set)
- Estimate $60/mos. in Emergency Vet Care (It Will Happen!)

NECESSARY EXPENSES: HOUSING

NECESSARY EXPENSES: HEALTH CARE (ANNUALLY)

What is your time worth?
OPTIONAL EXPENSES: TACK & EQUIPMENT

- New Tack Purchase
  - Saddle & pad, bridle, bit(s)
- New Equipment
  - Grooming supplies, blankets, leg wraps, etc.
- Tack & Equipment Repair
- Riding Apparel

OPTIONAL EXPENSES: TRUCK & TRAILER

- Payments
- Insurance
- Maintenance
- Fuel

OPTIONAL EXPENSES: SHOW EXPENSES

- Fees
- Stabling
- Overnight Accommodations
- Transportation
- Trainer's Fees
- Meals

OPTIONAL EXPENSES: “OTHER”

- Supplements
  - $0.50 - $1.50 per day
- Riding Lessons
  - $25 - $75 per hour
- Clinics
  - $150 per day
- Training
  - $300 - $600 per month (may include board!)
- Equine Insurance
  - Mortality & Theft ~3% of purchase price of horse
- Association Fees
  - $50 - $100

SUMMARY:

Necessary Expenses (per month)

- $200 - $600 in Housing
- $150 in Health Care

Optional Expenses (highly variable)

- $1,500+ in Tack & Equipment
- $15,000+ in a Truck & Trailer
- $200+ in Show expenses
- $550+ in “Other” expenses

RESOURCES

Books

Internet Sites
- “What It Costs to Own a Horse” by Rebecca Sweat, www.petplace.com
- “Horse Cost Calculator,” www.horsechannel.com

Local Resources
- Colorado State University, Equine Sciences Dept.