

Financial Preparedness Worksheet

A guide to annual horsekeeping costs

By Lisa Munniksma

Saddle? Check.

Helmet? Check.

Horse trailer? Check.

What's left? Oh, the horse!

While having adequate tack and equipment is an excellent start to horse ownership, one item is often overlooked--financial preparedness for horse ownership.

This worksheet outlines some of the expenses that the average horse owner can expect to encounter. The cost of the items vary by geographic area, discipline and needs of the horse and rider, so the blanks let you fill in the prevailing rates.

You can research rates by talking with horse-owning friends and equine professionals in your area. Be prepared for occasional price increases in most of these categories. Many products and services depend greatly on factors out of your control, such as weather, availability, and other economic conditions. A 10 percent cushion is a good estimate for increases.

And if you already own a horse, it's a good idea to have a budget in place, and reassess periodically where your horse dollars are going.

Annual Horsekeeping Budget

Every horse needs:

Farrier care (seven to 13 times per year) \$

Veterinary care

Vaccinations (2 times per year) \$

Coggins test (frequency dependent on your state and travel requirements) \$

Annual dental exam \$

Farm call fee \$

Deworming (4 to 6 times per year) \$

Boraded horses need:

Board (usually paid monthly) \$

Add-ons such as blanketing, fly spray, turnout, arena fees, and other services \$

*Hay \$

*Grain \$

*Bedding \$

*May be included in board, or a la carte

Non-boarded horses need:

Hay (count on one half-bale per horse per day when no pasture is available)	\$
Grain (dependent on a horse's nutritional needs)	\$
Water (if the water supply is not free)	\$
Bedding	\$
Electricity	\$
Manure disposal	\$
Pasture development and maintenance	\$
Fence building and maintenance	\$
Shelter building and maintenance	\$
Storage area building and maintenance	\$
Barn equipment: wheel barrow, water buckets, etc.	\$

Horse owners should also factor in:

Club and organization dues	\$
----------------------------	----

Education

Riding lessons	\$
Clinics	\$
Events and expos	\$
Books and DVDs	\$

Truck and trailer

Payments	\$
Insurance	\$
Fuel	\$
Maintenance such as new tires, oil changes, and other needs	\$

Tractor (for home-kept horses)

Payments	\$
Fuel	\$
Maintenance	\$

Additional costs owners need to be prepared for:

Equine insurance	\$
Emergency fund for illness, injury, behavioral issues, and major facility repair	\$
Supplements for joint health, weight gain, and other needs	\$
Medications	\$
Training	\$

Tack and equipment

New purchases	\$
Repair	\$
Riding Apparel	\$

Horse shows

Entry fees	\$
Transportation	\$
Trainers' fees	\$
Stabling fees	\$
Overnight accommodations for the rider	\$
Food and beverage expenses	\$

TOTAL ANNUAL COST \$

Every horse comes with expenses, but if you plan ahead and budget accordingly, you'll be prepared for any cost you encounter while enjoying the world of horse ownership.