

How much does it cost to keep a horse?

This is a question we are quite often asked. The answer could be “how much do you want to spend?” There is feed, vets, farriers, tack, trucks, trailers and so on. One person’s “acceptable” is another’s “too expensive” or even “not good enough”. We put together this sheet to help you understand a reasonable idea of costs but remember it will vary according to the size, age, temperament and job the horse is expected to do together with how much of the work you as the human do or don’t want to do.

We have averaged out all the costs to a monthly figure even if they happen once or twice during the year.

Minimum basic care as a monthly cost:

- Hay 30
- Worming 5
- Farrier 20 (trims not shoes)
- Vet 10 (annual vaccinations not covering dental care)

However this doesn’t really tell the whole story:

- Extra grain 10
- Shoes 25
- Dental 15

With good horse management most horses go all year without seeing a vet except for routine vaccinations and dental care. However if anything happens that needs a vet, it costs \$50 just to walk through the door so an emergency fund is always a good idea.

Horses need human contact at least twice a day. This is for: feeding, stall cleaning, water bucket maintenance (filling, cleaning, deicing), checking for cuts, health etc, fences need to be checked regularly when horses are turned out.

What if you had to pay someone? Assuming one hour minimum each day (which doesn’t include waiting and standing for the farrier and vet, going to the feed store or maintenance on any equipment) @ \$7 per hour. We have: $30 \times \$7 = \210 per month

So that is how much it is going to cost to maintain the horse but we need somewhere to keep him:

Land – buy one acre in the Treasure Valley - \$150 per month on a loan and interest.

Barn - \$100,000 to replace the Kaizen Farm one but say \$20,000 - \$150 per month for 10 years.

Maybe your neighbor has a pasture you can use for free, but ... does it have safe fences, does it have a water supply (irrigation or drinking), will you have to mow it when it gets untidy, will you have to fertilize it in the spring, what about weed control etc. All things that have to be worked out and often are talked about up front!

So to maintain a horse/pony each month we have:

Minimum care	65
Probable extras	45
Place to keep him	300
Time	210
Total	620

Now add on all the equipment you need!

Saddle	800
Bridle	100
Halter/lead	20

Wheelbarrow etc

Truck and trailer!!!

Gas for a vehicle that does 10mpg!!!!

You get the idea.

OK – keeping a horse.... incredibly expensive. What you get back priceless.