



The Cost of Responsible Dog Ownership

Ally is a 10-year-old girl who owns a chocolate Labrador Retriever named Pearl. Ally's friends love to come to her house and play with Pearl, and they think she is so lucky to have her own dog. Ally tells her friends that owning and taking proper care of Pearl is a big responsibility. Owning a dog takes two types of commitment: time and money. Ally's family must pay for food, pet care supplies and routine veterinary care. Since Ally is only 10, she can't help pay for Pearl's food, supplies and veterinary care, so she helps her family by walking and feeding Pearl. Ally's commitment to responsible dog ownership is her time, while her parents make a financial commitment.



Help Ally and her friends calculate the cost of owning Pearl for one year.

1) Pearl needs a few items, such as a collar, a leash, food and water bowls, a brush and a dog bed. Add the cost of Pearl's supplies.

- Dog bed: \$75.00
- Brush: \$10.00
- Food bowl: \$8.00
- Water bowl: \$8.00
- Leash: \$15.00
- Collar: + \$12.00

2) Ally feeds Pearl twice a day and also provides fresh water. If Pearl eats approximately 1 bag of dog food per month, and each bag costs Ally's family \$25, how much does Ally's family spend each year on dog food?

\$25 x 12 months = _____

3) Ally and her family must take Pearl to the veterinarian once a year for an annual check up. The veterinarian gives Pearl a thorough exam, annual shots for preventing disease and reviews Pearl's medical history. Each year Ally's family must buy Pearl flea and tick preventative medicine and heart-

worm preventative medicine to keep Pearl healthy. Add up the total cost of Pearl's annual veterinary visit.

- Exam: \$43.50
- Shots: \$90.50
- Flea and tick medication: \$99.00
- Heartworm medication: +\$70.00

4) Last summer Ally's family took Pearl to the lake near their home. Pearl swam and swam and swam, but when Ally's family returned home, they noticed Pearl was shaking her head back and forth and whimpered when Ally tried to stroke her ear. Pearl needed to go to the veterinarian again. The veterinarian diagnosed Pearl with an ear infection and gave Ally medicine to put inside of Pearl's ear twice a day. Ally was very responsible and medicated Pearl in the morning before school and in the evening before bed. Can you add up the cost of Pearl's emergency veterinary visit?

- Exam: \$43.50
- Ear medicine: \$22.50

5) Add the answers from the four questions to see the total cost of owning Pearl for one year.
