



Herd This?



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Cost to Own A Horse

Many people go into horse ownership with little idea of what it actually costs to own a horse. While the purchase price of the horse is often looked at as the price tag, the reality is that the cost to take care of that animal is much more. Because as veterinarians we run into situations where the horse suffers because owners are not aware of the costs of owning a horse, we felt it would be a good idea for this spring's newsletter to focus on the costs of horse ownership. We encourage you to use this information to budget for ownership and plan for the unexpected, because with horses, one thing is certain, and that is that the "unexpected" should be "expected"!

The cost to feed a horse varies considerably with your management situation (pasture vs. paddocks) as well as the horse (easy keepers vs. hard keepers). Therefore, this information will be an estimate and we are going to assume that we are dealing with limited acreage such that horses will need to consume predominately hay instead of pasture for their forage source. We recommend budgeting enough for a horse to eat 1.5% of their body weight in hay which is about 15 lbs. of hay per day for the average 1000 pound horse. Annually, this equates to 2.7 tons of hay which can cost anywhere from \$3-11 a square bale. Suppose your square bales weigh about 50 pounds, then this equates to a cost of anywhere from \$324-\$1188 for the year.

Typically horses will also need a grain supplement to give them the protein and vitamin/mineral profile that is important for appropriate development or maintenance. Suppose the average horse eats about 5 lbs/head/day of grain (can range from 0-10 lbs/head/day) and a 50 pound bag costs about \$15-20/bag. This makes the annual cost in the range of \$547.50-\$730 and certainly can be higher or lower based on the individual horse's weight and body condition as well as type of grain fed.

Equine healthcare is the next financial obligation that you will need to consider when budgeting for a horse. We recommend a veterinarian administer the vaccinations to your horse as you can be assured that the vaccine has been handled, stored, and administered appropriately. Refer to the Zoetis Immunization Support Guarantee on the following page for details on financial compensation if your horse contracts any disease he/she was vaccinated against. In our area, we recommend administering core vaccines (i.e. those that cause death and are very preventable with vaccination) which include Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus every six months and Rabies once a year. Additionally, we recommend an annual Coggins test to assure that your horse is not a carrier for the highly fatal disease, Equine Infectious Anemia. Lastly, there are other risk-based vaccines that may need to be administered if you are showing or trailriding such as Flu, Rhino, and Strangles. Your veterinarian can assess your horse's risk to these diseases and help you make a decision if you need to vaccinate your horses against these diseases. Couple your horse's vaccines with two farm calls per year

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UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS:

June 11th, 2014
HOW workshop at Leland Backyard Feed: Various topics on Equine husbandry, nutrition, dentistry, etc... Door prices and great speakers are planned. Keep a look out for more details to come.

November Equine Castration Month!!!

Pineview is offering a 20% discount on equine castrations scheduled in November. This equals to a greater than \$100 savings!!

Please call Donna at the office to set up your appointment ahead of time as slots will fill fast.
(910) 655-2442



Spring Checklist

- Spring Vaccinations
- Coggins
- Physical Examination
- Nutrition consult
- Dentistry
- Fecal examination

We at Pineview know that you have options when choosing your equine vaccines. So here's a good reason to choose ours: the Zoetis Equine Immunization Support Guarantee. In essence, it means that if a horse which has been properly vaccinated by Dr. Hart or Dr. Long with one of our qualified vaccines contracts the disease for which it was vaccinated against, Zoetis will reimburse you up to \$5,000 in diagnostic and treatment costs.



Strategic Deworming for Your Horse

A tailored program can help your horse avoid internal damage caused by parasite infections which can lead to poor feed conversion, anemia and colic. Ultimately, it can affect well-being and performance. By working together, we can analyze your horse's parasite risk profile to create an Individualized Deworming (ID) plan that fits your horse's life. After all, risk factors can vary greatly from farm to farm or horse to horse. They can include the horse's age, local climate cycle,

manure removal, pasture rotation, problem parasites, transportation and stocking density. Plus, younger horses have different risk factors than older horses, and horses that travel frequently for competition have different risk factors altogether.



Pineview is offering a special on Quest Plus right now!!!! Buy two tubes of Quest Plus for \$20 which is a savings of \$8 when paired with a fecal examination.

Cost to Own a Horse continued...

if you prefer the convenience of having a veterinarian come to your farm, and your total cost to keep your horse from getting these fatal diseases can range from \$250-350/year. Deworming is a smaller health-care cost but should be budgeted for. There is a large degree of variability with this cost because we are really starting to find that every animal should be treated as an individual based on the results of fecal exams. At a bare minimum your horse would need two dewormings a year and one to two fecal exams per year. You can expect to spend about \$50-100 on deworming management a year for each horse. Dental care is also a line item to budget for because horses need annual dental care if you want them to be able to utilize their feed the most efficiently and respond to the bit in a pain-free manner. In addition, an annual dentistry takes care of any sharp points and ulcers that are in the mouth as well as screens for more serious dental issues such as tooth root infections or fractured teeth. Anticipate spending about \$100-\$150 per year for routine dental care.

Horses must have their hooves trimmed every 6-8 weeks to maintain balanced, healthy hooves. Fortunately, for most people in our area, a horse with good solid feet can just be trimmed instead of having to get shoes. However, there are many medical conditions which require corrective shoeing and there are also many horses without good solid feet that need the support of a shoe. Generally, trims run anywhere from about \$30-50 each time and shoeing runs approximately \$75-150 per set of shoes bringing your annual cost to \$195-\$975. In case this is not already overwhelming, horses, by nature are accident prone! Between colics, lacerations, eye injuries, lameness issues, and other miscellaneous emergencies, we advise clients to set aside at least \$350/horse/year in an emergency fund. The reality is that emergencies can be very serious and very expensive and unfortunately, finances can force you to make a decision between treatment and euthanasia. One way to guard against this is to look into insurance for your horse which

must include mortality to get major medical and surgical coverage. While there are a lot of intricacies involved in this and you want to be sure to read the fine print carefully, generally a policy on a \$5000 horse that gives you \$5000 in major medical and surgical coverage will run about \$400-450 annually. Lastly there are some costs which differ regionally as well as for individuals such as facility costs, boarding fees, lessons, tack and equipment, and manure management. These are not only affected by your location but also the discipline of riding you participate in. I have not discussed these costs but they are nonetheless very important to consider and must be factored into the total cost of horse ownership.

So as you can see, horse ownership can cost as much or more annually than the purchase price of the horse so please budget appropriately before buying your first (or fiftieth!) horse.

A Personal Note From Heidi



This journey we call life has taught me a few lessons over the years. Perhaps one of the best ones I have learned is that if you want to know what God's will for your life is then look where He is working and join Him. For if we place ourselves where He is working, we can't be outside of His will. And so began my search for what God's role for me was in missions. I have felt for a long time that God didn't give me the ability to be a veterinarian to keep it here. That instead, He wanted to use it as a tool to reach people with the hope of Jesus Christ. This realization has sunk in more over the past year and I really feel my heart's cry leading me to where people have never even heard of Jesus Christ. Working through Christian Veterinary Missions, the same group my husband and I went to Africa with in 2011, I had the opportunity after Christmas in 2012 to work with the Gujjar people, a Muslim people group that raises water buffalo in northern India.

It is very difficult to sum up everything that happened in the two weeks I was there. There were the obvious things like treating sick animals and bringing some hope to a people whose lifestyle of harvesting milk from their buffalo for survival is being jeopardized by the population growth in the country.

But there were so many other things that I can't even begin to describe like the feeling of being right where God wanted me even amidst a jungle filled with snakes, monkeys, and leopards. It was eye opening to encounter a culture so very different from ours and yet realize that we are all still God's creations and that He needs messengers to tell those who do not know of Jesus Christ.

I was reminded many times in India of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26-40 where Philip went immediately when an angel told him to go and encountered an Ethiopian reading the Bible. And Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" and the Ethiopian replied, "How can I... unless someone explains it to me?" And so it is still to this day. There are people who have never heard the name of Jesus Christ or who don't understand what He did for us. Maybe you are one of those people or maybe you, like me, want to share that Good News with as many people as you can before the race is done. If you don't understand what He did for you, then I would encourage you to talk to me or a church pastor or a friend who is a Christian and have them explain it. If you are on the other end of the spectrum and you want to use the gifts God has given you to reach people in other countries to tell them about Jesus, I would love to help you find opportunities to do that as well!

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**So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31**

Pineview Veterinary Hospital is a large animal veterinary practice meeting the needs of large animals in south-eastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

Our mission is to provide high quality service to our clients coupled with the most advanced and progressive veterinary care for our patients with an emphasis on preventive and herd health medicine.

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There are times in life when we feel like we are at the pinnacle, where we have achieved success, in whatever definition that carries for you. I can remember several situations...vet school acceptance, my wedding, vet school graduation, my first case successes, the first Thank You note from a client whose treasured horse I had to euthanize, the birth of my children. But I cannot describe how much greater and eternal the feelings of success were in these situations...the day I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and understood what it meant to have a relationship with Him, the first time a client and friend opened up and thanked me for sharing Christ with him and told me how that had impacted him, and the day my daughter talked with me about accepting Christ and wanted to be baptized. I want the latter list to be longer than the former. I want my eternal influences to outweigh my earthly influences. I want to "Run in such a way as to get the prize"(1 Corinthians 9:24) and hear my Lord and Savior say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).



And so it is with very mixed emotions that I am letting you know that I am turning a page in my life and moving to the next chapter as John, Casey, Avery, and I answer the call that God has placed on our lives to serve full-time on the mission field. John and I have been taking classes at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to prepare for career service and if all goes as we hope (which may or may not be God's plan!) we will be preparing to leaving next spring. I am so excited about the opportunity that lies ahead but I am also saddened because I am really going to miss each and every one of you and your animals that have become so special to me. As I am wrapping my head around all of this, I have frequently reflected on how perfect God's timing is and how I couldn't have asked for a better veterinarian to leave you in the hands of. Dr. Christine Long, who most of you have been seeing for several years now, will be taking over my position as the business owner and making the transition a seamless flow for you, our clients. We know this may create a lot of questions for many of you, and we want to assure you that the business will be functioning the same as it always has, there may just be one new face on the block as a new veterinarian is transitioned in, and one less as I transition out. I thank you in advance for your support through this transition, and I would covet your prayers as we prepare to serve overseas.

In Christ,
Heidi Hart