



COST

The Real Costs of a Bernese Mountain Dog Puppy

The initial cost involved in obtaining a Bernese puppy depends on from whom or where you buy your dog.

► Prices for Bernese Mountain Dog puppies range from around one thousand dollars upwards to several thousand dollars. In today's market expect to pay \$1500.00 - \$1800.00 for a well-bred pup. Pups can be purchased for less but they are not likely to be products of a conscientious breeder's breeding program.

DON'T FALL FOR SLICK SALES PITCHES or GET RIPPED OFF BY PROFITEERS or PET STORES that charge puppy buyers the same price for Berner pups as conscientious breeders charge! Pet stores cater to impulsive puppy buyers.

For more information on the pitfalls of purchasing a puppy from a Pet Store or profiteers please see http://www.stoppupmills.org/puppy_buying_tips.html. Price is not necessarily a reflection of quality nor does it reflect the upfront and ongoing services offered by a breeder you might think are essential at the time of purchase or those you could potentially desire later.



► Purchase price is only a small portion of the money it will cost you to maintain your Berner from day to day. Think about how much disposable income you have to spend on dog food. Add costs for training classes and routine veterinary care. Does the disposable income you plan to use for your dog affect other things you might want to do with your family or children, like vacations or providing your child with unique enrichment activities?

► Would it be important to you in determining that you could afford to care for a Berner if your dog developed a catastrophic illness or was affected by an inherited condition that required a lifetime of medications or an expensive medical procedure? Some medications and dietary supplements for a dog of this size can run into several thousand dollars a year. If your dog had allergies or a medical condition that could be managed through feeding a 'prescription diet' ask yourself, is the extra expense to purchase a special formula dog food doable? Prescription diet feeds could add \$10.00 or more dollars to the cost of food per month.

► When considering costs, ask yourself whether the breeder of your dog has done everything possible to provide you with a pup that has the best chance of living a life free from debilitating illness. Then ask yourself how you will handle unplanned for expenses that might arise in relationship to owning a Bernese, because that possibility exists. Pet insurance might be worth looking into.

Normal First Year Costs For owners

<p>Dog Food \$300 - \$1200</p> <p>Veterinary care: Checkups and vaccines \$150 - \$250 Fleas, heartworm preventives \$80 Neuter/spay \$80 - \$250 Oh no, he's limping! \$25 - \$800 He's scratching! \$25 - \$500</p> <p>Health insurance?</p>	<p>AKC registration, License local, microchip \$50 - \$100.00</p> <p>Obedience class \$75 - \$125.00</p> <p>Supplies: \$150 - \$500 Dog bowls, leash, collars, unused dog bed, baby gate, crate, shampoo, brushes, combs, etc...</p> <p>Lawn plant replacement \$?</p>	<p>Toys (trust us) \$50 - \$500</p> <p>Replacement for chewed rug, chair, clothing, etc... \$?</p> <p>New vacuum \$150 - ?</p> <p>Better air conditioning, fans \$?</p> <p>New car for big dogs \$?</p> <p>New house with bigger yard \$?</p> <p>Fencing \$200-\$5000</p>
--	---	--

