

South African Dog Ownership Cost Report

Current public price examples and a planning worksheet

46 public price records | 8 categories | Prices checked 10 August 2026

Executive summary

There is no defensible single national price for owning a dog. This report records public examples from South African providers and keeps the product, service, location and unit attached to every number.

Use the examples as research anchors, then replace them with the exact food use, local quotes, insurance terms and lifestyle choices for the individual dog. No emergency-treatment estimate or national average has been invented.

Key planning takeaways

Checklist	Checklist
☐ Record what an adoption or purchase already includes	☐ Compare insurance cover and excess alongside the premium
☐ Calculate food from the actual pack price and days used	☐ Keep emergency provision separate from routine vet costs
☐ Divide annual routine care and occasional services by 12	☐ Recheck every source before buying, booking or publishing

What is included

Resource	Purpose
11-page printable PDF	Research summary, sample charts and owner worksheets
46-record CSV	Direct source URLs, units, locations, dates and price notes
Indexable HTML report	Full methodology, accessible tables, FAQs and related planning guides

This is a dated purposive sample, not a random survey or a provider ranking.

RESEARCH METHOD

How the public-price sample was built

Prices were collected from public provider, retailer, clinic, welfare-organisation and insurer pages. Every record stores a direct URL, location where relevant, unit, checked date and a note explaining any promotion, range or starting-price limitation.

Checklist	Checklist
☐ Visible price without requesting a private quote	☐ Promotions and starting premiums labelled
☐ Exact product or service basis recorded	☐ No inferred emergency or treatment costs
☐ Location retained for local services	☐ No unverified aggregator price used

Narrow sample findings

Sample	Observed result	Interpretation limit
Vitalvet annual vaccination, 3 branches	R325-R450; median R375	One provider group
Pampered Paws full grooms, 6 listings	R225-R450; median R312.50	One Cape Town provider
Insurer starting premiums, 9 plans	R80-R430; median R219	Unlike plans; not personal quotes
Selected puppy/group courses	R500-R1,480 per course	Lengths and structure differ
Selected boarding examples	R130-R350 per day or night	Size, season and service differ

More public listings in one place indicate better online data availability, not a cheaper or larger market.

Research-update log

Budget line	Update entry
Next planned review date	R _____
Provider or category to recheck	R _____
Changed price or service basis	R _____
Source URL still public	R _____
Promotion status confirmed	R _____
Reviewer note	R _____

SETUP

Initial costs before the dog comes home

Compare included services before adding each line. Adoption fees may include vaccination, sterilisation, parasite treatment, microchipping and identification. Equipment should be sized for the actual dog and home.

Public example	Price	Basis	Location	Source
Dog or puppy adoption fee	R1,240	per dog or puppy adoption	Johannesburg	Animal Anti-Cruelty League Johannesburg
Adult dog adoption fee	R1,650	per adult dog adoption	Pretoria Rural	Woodrock Animal Rescue
Puppy adoption fee	R1,850	per puppy adoption	Pretoria Rural	Woodrock Animal Rescue
Collapsible pet bowl	R80	per bowl	Online / multiple regions	Takealot
Pet bed starting price	R258	from price per removable cushion pet bed	Online / multiple regions	Takealot
Medium pet carrier starting price	R310	from price per medium carrier	Online / multiple regions	Takealot

Owner setup worksheet

Budget line	Owner amount
Adoption or acquisition	R _____
Bed and washable cover	R _____
Lead, harness and collar	R _____
Bowls and feeding setup	R _____
Carrier, crate or vehicle restraint	R _____
Gate or home-safety changes	R _____
Initial veterinary needs not included	R _____
Other setup item	R _____
SETUP TOTAL	R _____

Before buying equipment

Checklist	Checklist
☐ Measure the adult dog where possible	☐ Choose washable, repairable items
☐ Check vehicle and doorway fit	☐ Keep receipts and warranty information

FOOD AND ESSENTIALS

Calculate from actual use, not dog size alone

Record the chosen pack price and the number of days it lasts. Monthly food equivalent = pack price x 365 / days used / 12. Treats, dental products, waste bags and replacement toys remain separate lines.

Public food example	Price	Basis	Location	Source
Montego Classic adult dry food 20 kg	R585	per 20 kg bag	Online / multiple regions	Takealot
Royal Canin Mini Adult dry food 8 kg	R1,167.72	one-time purchase per 8 kg bag	Online	VetEx
Ultra Dog Superwoof large adult chicken and rice 20 kg	R1,400	per 20 kg bag	Durban / Pietermaritzburg delivery area	MyPet

Food-use calculation

Budget line	Entry
Chosen food and pack size	R _____
Current pack price	R _____
Days the pack actually lasts	R _____
Calculated monthly food equivalent	R _____
Treats	R _____
Dental products	R _____
Waste bags and cleaning	R _____
Replacement toys or chews	R _____
FOOD AND ESSENTIALS TOTAL	R _____

Retail examples are not brand rankings. Suitability, life stage, body condition and veterinary needs come before price.

Price-change notes

Budget line	Owner note
Usual price outside promotions	R _____
Delivery or collection cost	R _____
Alternative pack size checked	R _____
Date actual usage was measured	R _____

HEALTH PLANNING

Routine veterinary care and prevention

Public clinic pricing is limited. Ask what a listed fee includes and whether examination, vaccine, consumables, registration or follow-up are separate. Routine prices do not predict emergency treatment.

Public veterinary example	Price	Basis	Location	Source
Annual dog vaccination - Animal Medical Centre	R450	per annual dog vaccination	George	Vitalvet
Annual dog vaccination - York Street	R325	per annual dog vaccination	George	Vitalvet
Annual dog vaccination - Mossel Bay	R375	per annual dog vaccination	Mossel Bay	Vitalvet
First consultation - Animal Medical Centre	R450	per first consultation	George	Vitalvet
First consultation - Mossel Bay	R400	per first consultation	Mossel Bay	Vitalvet
Microchip - Mossel Bay	R250	per microchip	Mossel Bay	Vitalvet

Weight-specific retail prevention examples

Public product example	Price	Basis	Source
Bravecto medium dog chewable 10-20 kg	R480	once-off per chewable treatment	
Bravecto large dog chewable 20-40 kg	R623	once-off per chewable treatment	
Milbemax small dog and puppy deworming tablet 1-5 kg	R40	once-off per tablet	
Milbemax dog deworming tablet 5-25 kg	R123	once-off per tablet	

Parasite product and schedule must suit the individual dog. These retail records are cost examples, not medical recommendations.

Annual routine-care provision

Budget line	Owner amount
Annual examination or vaccination plan	R _____
Parasite-prevention plan	R _____
Dental or monitoring provision	R _____
Medication or chronic-care provision	R _____
Annual total divided by 12	R _____

SERVICES

Grooming and training

Keep service definitions intact. A wash is not a full groom, and a group puppy course is not a private behaviour consultation. Coat condition, class structure, trainer methods and owner support matter.

Pampered Paws full-groom public examples by dog size

Small dog maximum		R300
Medium dog maximum		R350
Large dog maximum		R450

Observed across smooth/short and silk/wool/wire/long coat listings. Source: Pampered Paws, Cape Town.

Training example	Price	Basis	Location	Source
Puppy 1 group course	R700	per five-lesson course	Cape Town	Cape Province Dog Club
Puppy Bootcamp group course	R1,400	per six-week course	Johannesburg	The Dog Club
Group dog training	R850	per month	Johannesburg	The Dog Club
Puppy club course	R1,480	per six-class course	Pretoria	Pretoria Shepherd Dog Club
Super Pup puppy school	R500	per five-week course	Bloemfontein	Fetch K9 Services

The selected course range is R500-R1,480, but course length and structure differ. No national training average is calculated.

Owner service plan

Budget line	Owner amount
Grooming quote and yearly frequency	R _____
Training course or session plan	R _____
Travel or handling surcharge	R _____
Monthly service provision	R _____

INSURANCE AND EMERGENCIES

Starting premiums are not equivalent cover

The nine values below are insurer-published starting premiums. Actual premiums are personalised. Compare excesses, co-payments, limits, waiting periods, exclusions, pre-existing-condition rules and claims processes.

Published starting premiums per pet per month

Oneplan Accident Plan		R80
Oneplan Primary Plan		R160
Oneplan Hospital Plan		R190
Oneplan Classic Plan		R280
Oneplan Super Plan		R430
dotsure.co.za Accidental plan		R99
dotsure.co.za Vital plan		R219
dotsure.co.za Elite plan		R399
dotsure.co.za Deluxe plan		R430

Sample range R80-R430; sample median R219. Plans are not like-for-like and the figures are not quotes.

Emergency provision

Do not infer emergency bills from routine consultation prices. Diagnostics, medication, surgery, hospitalisation and after-hours care depend on the case. Choose an owner-set monthly contribution, suitable insurance, available credit or a combination.

Budget line	Owner amount
Insurance premium from personalised quote	R _____
Emergency-fund contribution	R _____
Available payment or credit limit	R _____
TOTAL MONTHLY EMERGENCY PROVISION	R _____

CARE WHILE AWAY

Boarding, daycare and travel provision

Prices differ by size, season, stay length, social compatibility, medication needs and accommodation. Daycare may require an assessment or minimum attendance. Confirm vaccination, parasite and behaviour requirements before relying on a booking.

Public example	Price	Basis	Location	Source
Trial daycare day	R200	per trial day	Cape Town	Dogtanian Doggy Daycare
Single-night sleepover	R350	per night for a one-night stay	Cape Town	Dogtanian Doggy Daycare
Mini to medium dog boarding lower endpoint	R130	per day; published range R130-R160	Durban	Durban and Coast SPCA
Large dog boarding lower endpoint	R195	per day; published range R195-R215	Durban	Durban and Coast SPCA
Standard single-dog boarding	R180	per dog per night, off peak	Bloemfontein	Fetch K9 Services
Full-day daycare	R200	per full day of five hours or more	Cape Town	Pampered Paws

Owner travel provision

Budget line	Owner amount
Expected daycare days per month	R _____
Expected boarding nights per year	R _____
Peak or holiday surcharge	R _____
Assessment or trial visits	R _____
Pet sitter or walker quote	R _____
Food, medication and transport extras	R _____
Annual travel care divided by 12	R _____
MONTHLY PET-CARE PROVISION	R _____

PLANNING SCENARIOS

Small, medium and large dog worksheets

These scenarios show how cost drivers change. They deliberately contain blank owner inputs instead of invented monthly totals.

Planning field	Small dog	Medium dog	Large dog
Food	Pack price / actual months	Pack price / actual months	Pack price / actual months
Parasite prevention	Vet-selected small band	Vet-selected medium band	Vet-selected large band
Routine vet provision	Annual local plan / 12	Annual local plan / 12	Annual local plan / 12
Grooming	Quote x annual frequency / 12	Quote x annual frequency / 12	Quote x annual frequency / 12
Insurance	Personal quote	Personal quote	Personal quote
Boarding/daycare	Expected use x current rate	Expected use x current rate	Expected use x current rate
Emergency provision	Owner-selected	Owner-selected	Owner-selected
MONTHLY TOTAL	R _____	R _____	R _____

Dog-specific assumptions

Budget line	Owner entry
Dog's current weight and life stage	R _____
Food product and pack size	R _____
Days one pack lasts	R _____
Coat type and grooming frequency	R _____
Medication or chronic care	R _____
Expected travel or daycare use	R _____
Insurance policy and excess	R _____
Emergency funding method	R _____

A researched dataset price becomes relevant only when the product, size band, service definition and location genuinely match the dog.

PRINTABLE WORKSHEET

Build-your-own monthly dog budget

Enter actual current amounts. Convert annual or occasional costs into a monthly provision before adding the total.

Budget line	Monthly amount
Food	R _____
Treats	R _____
Routine vet provision	R _____
Parasite prevention	R _____
Insurance	R _____
Medication	R _____
Grooming	R _____
Training	R _____
Daycare or walker	R _____
Boarding or holiday provision	R _____
Replacement leads, beds and toys	R _____
Emergency fund	R _____
Other	R _____
MONTHLY TOTAL	R _____

Review notes

Budget line	Note
Next price-review date	R _____
Largest variable cost	R _____
Annual cost not yet included	R _____
Quote or policy to update	R _____
Saving action for this month	R _____

AUDIT NOTES

Limitations, citation guidance and sources

This purposive sample is not statistically representative. Providers without public prices are absent, listings can change without notice, and more records in one city reflect data availability rather than market size or affordability.

When citing a figure, retain the provider, service definition, location, price basis and checked date. Label calculated results as sample ranges or sample medians. Recheck the direct source before publication, booking or purchase.

Dataset coverage

Coverage Item	Recorded scope
Records	46 public examples
Categories	Setup, food, prevention, routine veterinary, grooming, training, boarding/daycare, insurance
Geography	Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and national online examples
Eastern Cape	No sufficiently current public example included in this collection
Downloads	doghaven.co.za/data/south-africa-dog-cost-examples.csv

Direct source domains

Source domains used
aacl.co.za capeprovinciedogclub.co.za cleanpets.co.za
dogtanian.co.za dotsure.co.za fetchk9.co.za
mypet.co.za oneplan.co.za pamperedpaws.co.za
petheaven.co.za pretoriashepherddogclub.co.za spcadbn.org.za
takealot.com thedogclub.co.za vetexonline.co.za
vitalvet.co.za woodrockanimalrescue.co.za

The CSV carries the full direct URL and note for every price record. Providers have not endorsed Dog Haven and inclusion is not a recommendation.

Citation checklist

Checklist	Checklist
☐ Name the provider and exact service	☐ Recheck the direct source before publishing
☐ Retain the location and price basis	☐ Call calculations sample ranges or medians
☐ State that the price was checked 10 August 2026	☐ Do not call the sample a national average