

# Horse Ownership by the Numbers



Homes for Horses  
COALITION

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION FOR INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN ADOPTING A HORSE

Owning and taking care of any equine is a lifelong commitment. While owning an equine can be fun and rewarding, choosing to adopt one is not a decision to be taken lightly. This brief guide is intended to help you weigh the necessary time and resources as you consider the exciting possibility of adding an equine to your family!

Acquiring an equine, through adoption or purchase, is often the least costly expense in ownership. Equines need a safe place to live, food and water, daily management, and consistent farrier and veterinary care.

**\$350-\$1,500** Average monthly cost of horse ownership, including specific costs listed below.\*

**\$140** Average monthly feed costs. While some horses can enjoy a hay-only diet, many need forage supplemented with concentrates or grain for extra calories or nutrients, especially as they get older.

**\$100-\$1,000** Routine veterinary care for one year. Routine vet care includes vaccines, deworming, and dental care.

**\$35-\$250** Average monthly cost for farrier care. Most horses need hoof care every **6-8 weeks**. Some horses need specialty shoes in addition to hoof trimming.

**1-2 acres** of space for each horse. Horses need space to be "turned out" on pasture each day to move around and graze. Horses should have a shelter to stay dry and out of the wind.

Horses are herd animals, so having at least **2 equines** on the same property is preferable.

**24 hours** Each equine should be observed at least once a day to confirm they are healthy.

Horses can have a **30+ year** lifespan. Before you take in a horse, you should make a plan for how you will manage your horse when they are older or need to be retired from work. Equine rescues are not retirement programs.

\*Cost estimates were submitted by HHC members from across the United States.

Interested in learning more? Contact the Homes for Horses Coalition to get connected with your local rescue.

 [HomesforHorses.org](https://www.HomesforHorses.org)