



## Self-Assessment: Can I Financially Afford A Dog?

### When the dog is healthy:

- **Plan on \$40 - \$100 per month for a 40 – 60 pound dog** for items such as food, treats, nail trims, heartworm preventative, and an occasional new toy or leash.
  - Add a quality dental chew to help keep teeth healthy — an additional \$15 - \$30/month.
  - Service dogs in Tucson need to wear quality shoes in the summer to prevent their paws from burning. The cost is \$40 - \$80.
- **Plan to pay \$40 - \$200 per year** for vaccines and wellness checks with a veterinarian.
  - Handi-Dogs requires you take your new dog to a veterinarian within 30 days of adoption to establish a relationship with a veterinarian and to complete the health screening form.
  - As your dog ages, it is recommended you take 'senior' dogs in for a wellness check every 6 months – so double the cost for dogs when they turn 8 – 10 years of age.
- **Add an additional \$100 - \$150 per month** for service dog training with Handi-Dogs, for an average 12 – 18 month training period.

**While training your new dog at Handi-Dogs, you should set aside a minimum of \$190 - \$240 per month to care for your healthy dog and pay for service dog training lessons.**

### Should your dog get sick or hurt, costs can increase dramatically.\*

- Be prepared to pay \$25 - \$75 just for an office visit with a veterinarian.
- If your dog is diagnosed with allergies – food costs may double, or monthly medications may be prescribed.
- Bloodwork and Xrays will quickly run into the hundreds of dollars.
  - They may be required if your dog is lethargic or is limping for example.
- Surgery to remove a foreign object your dog ate or to have a dental cleaning/teeth extracted will likely be \$500 - \$1000 or more.
- If your dog contracts Valley Fever (common in this area) and it is caught early, plan on monthly medication costs of \$40 - \$100+, which could be for life.

### Can Pet Insurance help with costs if the dog gets sick or hurt?

Yes – premiums are about \$35 - \$65 per month. Do your homework when purchasing pet insurance so you know:

- what the insurance will and will not cover;
- what your deductible will be;
- which veterinarians will accept the insurance.

If your dog has a serious illness, even with insurance your costs to care for your dog could run into the thousands.

**\* NOTE: Most veterinarians will require you pay the bill in full at the time of service.**

I acknowledge I have read the above and believe I am financially able to pay for the above expenses.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date