

WHAT IT COSTS A REPUTABLE BREEDER TO PRODUCE A LITTER

(The answer to an uninformed, uneducated person's statement "I want to breed my dog - or STUD HIM OUT- so I can make money like you breeders)

If breeding is done correctly by a responsible, educated, dedicated breeder, with the only motive being improving on the parents:

The following includes the costs over the lifetime of a dog or bitch before they produce a litter as well as the costs involved in producing, raising and, hopefully, selling the litter at a reasonable price by the time they are no more than 10 weeks old)

Stud Dog or male (Age at breeding-anywhere from 2 to 6 or more years old)

Purchase price	\$850 to \$1000 or more	Depending on breed, quality and background/accomplishments of parents (2010 costs – approximately \$1400 to \$1600)
Puppy vaccines/health care	\$200 to \$400 or more	Depending on whether vet, breeder, or owner does the shots, worming, etc.) (2010 costs - \$330 to \$660)
Food/supplements	\$750 to \$4500 or more	Quality food, supplements, etc. it does a breeder no good to skimp (2010 costs - \$1240 to)
Training/equipment/supplies/entry fees, travel expenses, etc	\$5000 to \$10,000 or \$15,000 or more	depending on titles earned, time it took, handlers/trainers fees, etc. (2010 costs - \$8250 to \$25,000)
Health/genetic screening	\$350 to \$1000	Depending on breed and <i>known</i> health/genetic problems (2010 costs - \$570 to \$1650)
Breeding fitness/readiness testing	\$250 to \$400	Depending on whether problems are encountered (2010 costs - \$415 to \$660)

Brood Bitch or female (Age at breeding - anywhere from 2 to 6 or less years old)

All of the above costs apply to the bitch as well as:

Breeding fitness/readiness testing	\$300 to \$800	Depending on breed and <i>known</i> health/genetic problems (2010 costs - \$500 to \$1300)
Shipping/boarding/breeding fees	\$500 to \$2000 or more	Depending on how far the bitch is shipped, her weight, what the stud dog owner charges per day for board, whether using fresh chilled or frozen semen, etc (2010 costs - \$1400 to \$3300 or more)
Stud Fee	\$850 to \$1000 or more	Depending on breed, accomplishments of stud dog (2010 costs – stud fees have not kept up with the rise of other costs)

Take a round figure of \$12,000 each for the dog and bitch (\$24,000) before they are actually bred (this is if the breeder owns both dogs and if the breeder has done a great deal of the health care, training, handling, etc. themselves) (2010 costs - \$40,000)

The due date arrives and the bitch whelps a litter of 8.

If a C-section is not required (average cost of \$450 with no complications) (2010 costs - \$600 & up) and all the pups survive:

Puppy feeding/supplementation/health care	Average minimum \$350 to \$450 per pup to age of 10 to 12 weeks depending on breed size, and assuming none of them or the bitch get sick. (2010 costs - \$6000)
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Factor in X number of dollars per hour per day for anywhere from 4 to 8 hours of caring for the pups and mother depending on whether she can handle feeding them herself or whether supplemental feeding or total feeding has to be undertaken by the breeder plus cleaning, socialization, health care, handling, etc. (Can't put a \$ number on it)

IF all pups are sold at a price of \$1000 each between the ages of 10 to 12 weeks old and assuming the breeder keeps one for themselves to continue on with their breeding program (\$7000), and accounting for variables of expenses, that's a net LOSS of, *at least*, anywhere between \$15,000 and \$20,000. (at 2010 costs, pups each sold for \$1200 keeping one for breeder, net loss of between \$24,000 & \$33,000)

If a bitch is bred three, and possibly, four times during her lifetime, her owner *might* come close to breaking even on the bitch, if one does not count the rest of the bitch's lifetime of being nonproductive and assuming no serious health problems as she gets older.

A stud dog owner will never come close to repaying the costs by charging stud fees. A heavily campaigned dog, whether it is for show, field, or obedience, in order to build a nationally known reputation so bitch owners will come to him for breeding, will never recoup the costs from stud fees that usually equal the price of one puppy. The costs involved in campaigning a stud dog to national recognition are astronomical and couldn't be recouped if the dog was bred every day of his life- which is not possible.

For all of the above reasons, and because the IRS will not allow dog breeding as a business, dog breeding is not an endeavor to be taken lightly.