

**Mid-Atlantic
Great Dane
Rescue League**



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**MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE
RESCUE LEAGUE**



**Are Great Danes
Expensive to
Own?**



2006 Edition
See us online at: www.magdrl.org

Is Great Dane Ownership Expensive?

Based on a 2005 survey, Churchill Insurance Company, LTD of Great Britain reported that the cost of care for an average dog during its lifetime is a whopping \$51,321!



Although Great Danes are a short-lived breed, the Churchill survey deemed them the most expensive dog to own at \$77,819 over a 10-year life-span.

That's the equivalent of a luxury car or a round-the-world cruise on the Queen Elizabeth II.

Yet neither a car nor a cruise will lovingly greet you after your long day at work. Neither will cuddle with you on a cold wintry night. Most dog lovers think they're the best bargain around!

MAGDRL does not endorse the Churchill survey, yet we do agree that caring for a dog is a serious, long-term financial commitment.

We advise prospective dog owners to take their time in choosing the most suitable pet for both their lifestyle and their finances.

A dog should be a smart decision that is aligned with an adopter's long-term personal financial plans.

So how much do they really cost?

The answer is, it varies. Suffice to say, there is no such thing as a "cheap Dane!"

Despite appearances, the greatest expense of owning a Great Dane is not the cost of food. *It is the cost of health care.*

First-Year Costs:

MAGDRL surveyed our members to determine the average first year costs of maintaining a healthy Great Dane.

First Year Expenses	
Dog License	\$10
Microchip/Tattoo	\$25
Collars, leashes	\$75
Food (premium)	\$500
Food & water bowls and stand	\$75
Veterinary visits (well-dog)	\$400
Parasite preventatives	\$280
Entertainment (Toys, Kongs, bones)	\$100
Colossal crate	\$250
Baby gate	\$35
Grooming/bathing & tools	\$200
Gear (jacket, raincoat, etc.)	\$200
Training classes	\$200
Boarding/away care (2 weeks @ \$20 a day)	\$280
Dog walker (\$5.00 @ day)	\$1,200
Bedding	\$200
Annual Total:	\$4,040

That's over \$330 a month for a healthy Dane. If you have pet insurance, add another \$300 per year (\$25 more each month.)

In addition to the costs above, add one-time acquisition costs. These average \$300 for a rescue; \$500—\$5000 for a Dane from a breeder.



Savvy shoppers may reduce some costs, however the amounts above reflect actual expenses reported by our Dane-owning members.

Unexpected Costs:

As with humans, the cost of health care depends upon lifestyle, health, age and genetics. Even puppies from the same litter can have significantly different health care needs.

A Dane's age is less of a factor in the cost of healthcare than with some other breeds. A young Dane may suffer from Wobblers Syndrome costing thousands of dollars to treat. An older Dane may have no health issues except those related to aging — cheap to treat by comparison.



Sample unexpected costs common for this breed may include:

- \$ Great Danes are the #1 breed to bloat. Emergency veterinary care for bloat ranges from \$1400 to \$4,000 — paid upfront.
- \$ An MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan may be necessary to diagnose musculo-skeletal issues and range in cost from \$1000 to \$2000.
- \$ Torn ligaments are common injuries in Danes. TPLO (Tibial Plateau Leveling Procedure) is widely accepted surgery that costs from \$2000 to \$3400.

Some Dane owners keep a zero-balance credit card to cover emergency expenses. Some have health insurance for their pet. Others keep savings to cover emergency care.

The rule of thumb for responsible Dane stewardship is: Be prepared for the worst, but take good care of your Dane and hope for the best!

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