

COST OF OWNING AND KEEPING DONKEYS



**THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY**

IT IS SENSIBLE TO BE PREPARED FOR THE COSTS OF CREATING A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR DONKEYS AND THEIR ONGOING CARE

The total initial expense in preparing for donkeys will depend on facilities already available such as shelter, fencing, hard standing area, electricity supply. In order to ascertain any additional requirements for your environment we suggest you attend one of our free training courses Introduction to Donkey Care -Stage 1 or watch the DVD that accompanies the course before you make any initial outlay.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

Electric fencer	£90 - £200
Plastic 3ft fencing stakes (based on 1 sq. acre that has solid fencing around the perimeter) – 15 posts if field is square	£35
Electric fencing tape – 200m roll	£24
Internal batteries	£12.each
Stable wheelbarrow	£60 - £200
Fork	£20
Shovel	£20
Yard broom	£10
Poop scoop and rake	£15
Head collar and rope	£12
Grooming kit (dandy brush, body brush, plastic curry comb, hoof pick, tray/basket, cotton swabs, sponges, scissors)	£19
Buckets (minimum 2)	£10
Approximate initial outlay	£327 - £577

Please note that all costs are approximate and may vary from supplier to supplier and region to region.

COSTS OF ONGOING CARE PER DONKEY PER YEAR

The costs for ongoing care are approximate and are based on a healthy donkey that has a correct body condition, has access to sufficient nutritional grazing during summer and in the winter has access to ad lib barley straw and adequate hay. Veterinary costs shown are only for annual checks and vaccinations. Please be aware that veterinary treatment for health problems can sometimes cost between hundreds and thousands of pounds, appropriate veterinary insurance is something that should be considered by every donkey owner.

	Range	Average
Vet call out and exam fee per visit	£20 - £80	£50
Flu/Tetanus (Flu vaccination annually - Tetanus vaccination bi-annually)	£30 - £45	£37
Dental check (annually)	£40 - £60	£50
Annual faecal count (free for foster owners) 2-4 times per year	£16 - £40	£28
Worming* (assuming 3 per year based on 200kg donkey)	£12 - £30	£21
Farrier average 8 weekly trim	£160 - £260	£210
Insurance (third party liability only)	£40- £100	£70
Hay (if donkey off grazing in winter) – 1 bale per week for 26 weeks. Prices vary from £4 to £7 a bale	£104 - £182	£143
Straw – feed and bedding @ £3.50 bale - 100 bales per donkey per year. (Prices can range from £3 - £5 depending on area.) Particle bedding where used instead of straw £6 - £10 bale	£300 - £500	£400
Cost per donkey per year	£722 - £1302	£1009

THE AVERAGE COST OF KEEPING A PAIR OF DONKEYS FOR ONE YEAR COULD BE £2000

*The number of times per year that the donkey needs to be wormed, and which drug should be used, will depend on the owner/keeper's land management system, other animals kept and results of a faecal count. Consultation with an equine veterinary surgeon is strongly recommended.

Elderly donkeys, those with dental problems, donkeys that may need extra feed or those with respiratory problems, may require different bedding and/or feed which can often be more costly.

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The Donkey Sanctuary was founded by Dr Elisabeth Svendsen MBE in 1969.

The Donkey Sanctuary (registered charity number 264818) and its sole corporate trustee, The Donkey Sanctuary Trustee Limited (Company number 07328588) both have their registered office at Slade House Farm, Sidmouth, EX10 0NU.

Incorporating: The Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children and Donkeys (EST); The International Donkey Protection Trust (IDPT).

WORKING WORLDWIDE