

WHAT DO OUR PUPPIES COST?

Lee Hanrahan (unlimitedGSD.com)

You can buy a cute German Shepherd puppy off many websites and free local classifieds. You can Google GSD Breeders and find all different types of German Shepherds in all sizes and colours and at all different prices.

Unfortunately there are very few good GSD breeders - those that work & health test their breeding stock with the goal of producing puppies that are within the standard are few and far between.

It costs next to nothing to do nothing and breed - but what does it cost a good breeder to produce quality puppies from worthy parents?

Our puppies are priced at \$3,000.00 - for every puppy in the litter. No 'pick' puppy, no 'show quality', no extra for females, no extra for males. No extra for anything (except shipping), no bunch of bullsh*t that I see on other websites.

Why do our puppies cost \$3,000.00? **They don't.**

This is the selling price, not the cost. It's not my cost (but I would be happy to sell you one at cost if you want!) and it's not your cost either.

Here is a breakdown of what it 'cost' me to breed Emmy at 4.5 years of age:

Club Memberships (GSSCC, CKC, USca, OAGSDC)	1,546.54
Club Dues (SchH Club Annual Dues)	960.00
CKC Classes	705.00
Private Lessons (SchH & CKC)	1,735.00
Show Handling Classes	120.00
Rental of Training Center	3,920.00
Equipment	548.00
Seminars	600.00
Entries	1,514.00
Health	
Hip/Elbow Cert (PennHip & a-Stamp)	947.00
Other (CERF, DM, Cardio)	218.78
Breeding	
Heat Cycle Tracking	350.00
Progesterone Tests	600.00
Brucellosis Test	150.00
Breed Survey	350.00
Total	14,264.32

So, let's take that \$14K and divide it by a litter of 8 puppies - that's \$1,783.04 per puppy at cost. How about 6 puppies - \$2,377.39 - but wait... you think 'but this dog can have more than 1 litter of puppies!' - Yes, you're right she can, Emmy in total had 19 puppies. So let's redo the math!

Oh, wait... wait... I forgot to add on a few things...

Original purchase price plus shipping / registration / microchip / scorebook of my dog	3,119.52
Gas to accomplish all of the above (very conservative estimate!)	9,000.00
My time to do all of the above (calculated at \$15.00 per hour)	65,024.00
Grand Total	91,407.84

Ok, so now let's divide that total by 19 puppies... That is still \$4,810.94 per puppy and I haven't added on the costs associated to actually HAVE the litter or the costs of any previous failed breeding attempts (I flew her to California to breed and it didn't take.... I went with her, motel room etc... about \$3500.00)

So, the price of our puppies is \$3,000.00 - the cost is so much more.

Good breeders **DO NOT** make money breeding dogs - we do this because we love and want to preserve the breed. In the rare case when we do come out on top, the money we make goes back into our breeding program. Better equipment, more training etc...

