

Saving money on taking care of your dogs

How to save a LOT of money when you have a LOT of dogs!

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HOW TO SAVE A LOT OF
MONEY
WHEN
YOU HAVE A LOT OF DOGS

Cyn Mobley

How to Save a LOT of Money
When You Have a Lot of
Dogs

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Your Maintenance Schedule

Coordinate

Get all your dogs on the same vaccination/heartworm treatment/worming schedule as soon as possible. Get their vaccinations done during their annual visits.

Vaccinations

We're not going to get into whether or not you should vaccinate and if you should, how often. There are lots of places that do discuss that. *Which* vaccines and *how often* are decisions you need to make after consulting your vet.

Here's an overview on how to think about vaccines. In general terms, you'll need:

1. Rabies
2. DHLPPCv (Canine distemper virus/ Hepatitis/Leptospirosis/Parainfluenza/Parvovirus/Coronavirus).
3. Other stuff: Bordatella may also be needed if you board much. Some vets offer Lyme and other vaccines.

Here are the factors you'll want to consider as you make your decision: legal requirements, health, kenneling, and transporting. I've included a little overview of each in the paragraphs that follow. Again, you **SHOULD** make these decisions after talking to a licensed vet in your jurisdiction.

For more information, talk to your vet or consult a good basic dog ownership book.

Legal

You're probably required to vaccinate your dog for rabies in your state. The requirement may be one or three years. Ask your vet what other vaccines you are required to give in your area.

Health

Which vaccines to give is a decision you need to make with your vet. In general, you may want to avoid vaccines for dogs who are immuno-compromised for some reason or who are old.

Titers check to see if your dog's vaccines are still effective. Dr. W. Jean Dodd, DMV, is one of the real authorities in this area. This can be a pricey alternative in terms of money, but perhaps far less costly than the effects of too many vaccines on your dog's health. Read about the issue here:
<http://www.doglogic.com/vaccination.htm>

Kenneling

If you really do have a pack, you probably don't use an outside kennel. You have a housesitter. But if you think you MIGHT need to kennel, check into what shots they require AND if they'll accept titers. (see above for a link on titers.)

Travel

An Interstate Health Certificate is required when you take dogs between states. Not all states have border checkpoints (though some do) and they won't check often. But when they DO, you'll be stranded until you can produce one. They're regulated by the USDA and information on the form itself can be found at
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome>
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/manuals/eig/13.4_eig.pdf

Outside transport services like Peterson Transport Services require them. Check with your transport organization and see what they require and if they'll accept titers.

<http://petsllc.net/>

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