

## Dog Care & Training as a 4-H Project

The cost of the Dog Care Project is \$30.00 for the 2007/08 4-H year. You will need a 6' leather lead and a correction/choke chain collar for class. Other special equipment may be suggested depending on the dog.

The age and size of your child will be a factor in the Dog Care Project. You need to be sure that the child is capable to controlling the dog that they are using for the project. For safety sake, we can not allow a child and dog team that will be a danger to other children or dogs to participate in the project.

Unlike other 4-H projects the cost of the animal is not taken into account. The dog you choose is going to be a lifelong companion in your home, so the cost of the animal is not a factor. Remember "This is a dog that will be with you for its lifetime so choose wisely."

Your dog needs to be old enough to have had its Rabies vaccine before the start of class. According to most veterinary protocol this would be around the age of 16 weeks.

Your dogs feed cost will vary depending on its individual nutritional needs. Dog food costs vary between brands. The cost can range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 for a 40lbs. bag of dry dog food. Depending of the size of your dog you can expect to feed from 10lbs to 50lbs of dry dog food a month.

Housing for your dog depends on the type of dog you have chosen. At the minimum you will need an area large enough for you pet to get plenty of exercise. They will need a house or shelter that is dry, clean and warm. The shelter needs to be large enough for the animal to stand up or lie down and stretch out fully. You will need a way of securing your animal so that it does not wander and get lost. Your pet also needs protection from other predatory animals. A sturdy fence will help to keep your pet in and predators out.

It is recommended that you have a dog crate or harness restraint for your dog in your vehicle when transporting. (This is the same as having a seatbelt and/or a car seat for your child.)