

COST OF OWNING AND KEEPING A DONKEY

Essential Equipment

Electric fencer	£100 - £150
Plastic 3ft fencing stakes (based on 1 sq acre that has solid fencing around the perimeter) – 15 posts if field is square	£20.00
Electric fencing tape – 200m roll	£20.00
Internal batteries	£12.00 each
Stable wheelbarrow	£60.00
Fork	£20.00
Shovel	£15.00
Yard broom	£10.00
Poop scoop & rake	£15.00
Head collar and rope	£8.00
Grooming Kit (dandy brush, body brush, plastic curry comb, hoof pick, tray/basket, cotton swabs, sponges, scissors)	£15.00
Buckets (minimum 2)	£5.00
Approximate initial outlay	£300.00 - £350.00

NB. Costs are approximate and may vary from supplier to supplier and region to region. Other initial expenses will depend on facilities already available such as shelter, fencing, hard standing area, electricity supply, etc.

Ongoing costs per donkey per year

	Average	Range
Vet call out fee per visit	£30.00	£20 - £45
Flu/Tetanus (flu vaccination annually, Tetanus vaccination bi-annually)	£35.00	£30 - £45
Dental Check (annually)	£35.00	£20 - £50
Annual faecal count (fee for foster owners) 2-4 times per year	£28.00	£16 - £40
*Worming (assuming 4 per year based on 200kg donkey)	£36.00	£24 - £60
Farrier (average 6 weekly @ £20 per visit)	£120.00	£90 - £150
Insurance (third party liability only)	£40.00	£40
Hay (if donkey off grazing in winter) – 1 bale per wk for 26 weeks. Prices vary from £2.50 to £5.00 a bale	£97.00	£65 - £130
Straw – feed & bedding @ £3.00 bale - 100 bales per donkey per year (prices can range from £2.50 - £3.50 depending on area)	£300.00	£250 - £350
Particle bedding where used instead of straw £3.50 - £4.50 bale		
Cost per donkey per year	£715.00	£555 - £870

*The number of time 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 therefore strongly recommended.

**This price is available only to Donkey Sanctuary Foster Owners and Donkey Breed Society members. If you require vets fee cover or are not a D/S Foster Owner or DBS member, please contact Carriage House Insurance on 01206 337388 for a quote.

NB The above costs are approximate and are based on a healthy donkey that has a good body condition, has access to sufficient nutritional grazing during summer and is off the field in the winter with access to ad lib barley straw. Veterinary costs shown are only for annual checks and vaccinations. Please be aware that veterinary treatment for health problems can sometimes cost several hundreds of pounds.

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.