

Pin Oak Farm.com

FAQs: Why do they cost so much?

Doodles are in high demand. The market drives the price. When I began breeding doodles in 2002, there were not that many breeders available. Now, in 2011, "breeders" have popped up everywhere. As I researched prices on the web, I was shocked to see what some of these "breeders" are asking for their dogs. It caused me to re-evaluate my pricing, and here is what I came up with.

The cost of a Pin Oak doodle is derived from the following basic investments and costs that I incur in providing quality dogs. As you read the following, use this information to determine if the prices asked by other breeders are justified:

Acquiring quality breeding stock (either from my program or other reputable breeders); also stud fees to introduce new lines into our breeding program. Add to this registration costs and microchipping.

Food – no explanation necessary! We don't skimp! Quality food is usually sold at a quality price!

Veterinary care – including exams, vaccines, flea/tick/ heartworm meds, etc.. Pin Oak Farm requires all of our standard sized breeding parents* to have their hips certified either by Penn Hip or OFA. These certifications insure the buyer of a quality dog. This is a necessary investment to provide the doodle public with the confidence they need before they make a purchase. Also, I rely on the expertise of my veterinarian practice to vaccinate and provide puppy health certificates. Some breeders perform their own vaccines, meaning some puppies never see a vet before sale/shipment. At Pin Oak, you can be assured that each puppy has been vet checked and approved for sale. I don't pretend to be a vet, and self-medicate or vaccinate. I rely on professionals. We also rely on our vets for some of our mini breedings that have to be performed artificially. This requires several appointments to determine the female's best breeding dates, then performing the actual breeding.

Grooming – I rely on professionals, as I am not skilled at grooming, and desire that my doggies have the best care to look their best and be maintained at all times. If I had to invest in all the grooming tools and equipment required, plus invest the added time to groom all my dogs, my cost vs time ratio would be tremendous!

Advertising - primarily web design & maintenance. I rely on my website and SEO placement to reach my customer base. I rarely have to advertise in a newspaper or elsewhere. My website is your first impression about me and my program, so I invest heavily in how it is presented and the information it conveys. My puppies are usually reserved and sold before they are even born. That way, I'm not playing catch up by trying to sell leftover puppies by running newspaper ads, etc. I know beforehand that my puppies are wanted and going to homes of people willing to do research and invest in a quality dog.

Time - I invest a huge amount of time with my dogs and puppies. This includes the daily care for the dogs. It includes maintaining and cleaning their housing environment to strict standards. There is time involved in transporting them to/from vets, groomers, breedings. I invest a lot of time in contact with my customers via phone calls and emails, etc. I cannot begin to document the amount of time I invest in my doggies and this breeding program. It is truly a full time job. And I love it!

In summary, if you can imagine the care for just one dog, please realize that I am providing quality care for several. Multiply your costs for one dog times 10! That would begin to give you a glimpse at what all I have involved in my program. I also want to encourage you to consider this: Based on all the information you've just read, you should be able to discern the costs I have to incur to bring quality dogs to you. It should cause you to question the cost that other breeders are asking, especially when they only have one or two dogs. They charge a high price because they know the market is driving it. But do they really have the expense and investment incurred? I'm skeptical. I try to keep my prices reasonable, but I have to cover my costs and make it worthwhile! I love what I do, but can't do it for free! If you find another breeder asking the same price, perhaps you may want to have them qualify for you where that price is derived from.

If you find another breeder charging a questionably lower price, you have to ask the same questions. Just what is their investment into their breeding program?

Consumers are finding doodle prices all over the board, from really high to questionably low. My best advice is to realize that sometimes you get what you pay for. Here at Pin Oak, we feel our prices are in line with breeders who breed and raise quality dogs. We have a huge investment in their health, upbringing, and our overall breeding program. If you find a cheaper-priced puppy, please be careful and ask a lot of questions to the breeder about the breeding parents (do they own them, can you see them), references, guarantees, and if they have a veterinarian to call as a reference.

Bottom Line: I don't cut corners!

*Must be 2 years of age to be officially certified.