“Why Do You Charge $2000 for a puppy?”

Once you choose to get a dog from a breeder like Converse Premium Labs LLC, it’s helpful to get all the facts so you understand the cost of raising a litter of responsibly bred puppies.

INITIAL COSTS BEFORE WE EVEN BREED OUR DOGS:

Converse Premium Labs will not even consider purchasing one of our personal puppies from a breeder unless they do health testing on their adults. As a result of this the cost of a breeding dog are more expensive on average than that of a “normal” bred puppy. Over the years that we have been participating in our breeding program we have purchased our puppies from all over the United States with us paying for our puppies anywhere between $800.00 - $3500.00 per puppy.

Cost of Feeding per year:

The cost of feeding our CPL dogs (Purina ProPlan 30/20 and ProPlan High Protein Dry Puppy Food, Chicken & Rice Formula) at an average of $85 per bag plus taxes or $4320.00 per year. When we have nursing mothers and puppies there is an additional $200.00 per litter for food while whelping Plus $200 per year for vitamin supplements. Depending upon the number of litters we have in a given year the average monthly cost is $410.00 per month.

Vet Care Per Year:

Vet Care includes yearly checkups, vaccinations, deworming, heartworm, flea and tick preventative. If there are no other treatments necessary (such as ear infections, injuries, etc.) this cost will come to around $3600.00 per year. But honestly this is higher for us.

Health Testing:

Health Testing of Hip, Elbow, eyes, heart and DNA testing is approximately $1000 per dog. (One time cost)

Therefore, a ballpark cost for a Converse Premium Lab dog to be ready to breed is approximately $11,120.00. This is based on all the health clearances are good and their development in their first 2 years of life go as expected. If not, we simply can’t breed this dog and a very tough decision has to be made concerning rehoming this wonderful dog that we have invested our hearts in as well as the $. So the “real time” facts are that it takes at least 2 years and a successful breeding and whelping of a healthy litter of 8 puppies to be born for CPL to net $4800.00 (which equates to an earnings of $200.00 a month…or $6.67 a day for the first 2 years!)

LITTER COASTS:

Expenses can add up quickly for a breeder who uses responsible practices. The average cost of such a litter can fluctuate, but it takes a great deal of money, energy, and time. For

us, traveling to obtain our new puppy is the first aspect of our breeding program as we search within a 500-mile radius to secure our puppies. Our puppies have come from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia and Georgia to ensure that we can continue our excellent bloodline and superior dogs. This process has involved overnight stays in a hotel, gas, meals, and driving time. Collectively, this entire process per puppy purchased has added up to $4,500+ including the cost of the puppy.

A great deal of maintenance is required to make sure the mothers of our puppies are comfortable and in good health. OFA and PennHip certifications for their health clearances can cost around $500 for each prospective dam that will produce puppies. We also have all our males genetically tested, hips, elbows, eyes and hearts certified at the same cost.

Considering all goes well with the first attempt at breeding of one of our dogs for the first time the cost invested in the breeding of this litter is $7500 before the litter is even conceived.

In anticipation for the puppies' arrival, we will have accumulated the necessary supplies for the litter— including things like a heat mat, siphon bulb, clamps, heat milk, and a whelping box. The cost of this kind of preparation averages out at $150 - $500 as well.
Throughout the pregnancy, breeders invest in extra food, prenatal vitamins, and ultrasound (we purchased our own ultrasound machine @ $700) and sometimes x-rays to confirm the pregnancy — all of which average out at around $450. The actual cost of birthing can get up to $3,000 depending on whether there are complications or if a c-section must be done. (some of the items listed are one-time purchases)

Once the puppies arrive, AKC litter registrations are $25 per puppy. Premium food for the nursing mom and weaned puppies who are starting on solid food will cost nearly $600 over the whelping process.

Essential vet visits for the puppies can add up quickly as well — worming puppies' costs around $250 per litter when you factor in stool samples and medication. Shots for Parvo, distemper, and a regular vet visit will land around $400 depending on how many puppies are in the litter.

Additionally, the CPL "Take Home" Bags with a sample of the food, collars, and toys for new owners to take home can land around $160.

Other costs can (and have) include emergency vet visits, missing work to deliver the puppies, replacing puppy toys and towels, home destruction, utility costs for added laundry and heating, communication with new buyers, and the 24/7 job of looking after a dam and her puppies — all of this can accumulate to nearly $1,600.

Ultimately, the total cost of responsibly breeding a litter of our puppies can range anywhere from $7,700 to $10,000. (Although many of the costs that have been listed are one-time purchases that can be used for additional litters).

Although the breeding of our puppies is expensive and a time-consuming undertaking, the energy and thoughtfulness reputable breeders, like CPL put into their puppies is the foundation of what we do and what we are passionate about. As of January of 2025, our breeding program has been a blessing to over 200+ families. We have been extremely humbled as individuals have reached out to us who are considering becoming breeders and have sought us out to mentor them through how we have developed our breeding program.

It's important to note that a high price tag does not always equate to a responsibly bred puppy — scammers can come in all kinds of sizes and prices. This is why it's key to make sure you're connecting with a good source and communicate at length with your potential breeder. We are always willing to talk with you and answer any questions that you may have. We are always inviting people to come for a face-to-face visit to meet us and see exactly what we do. We try to get to know our CPL Families before the puppies are even born so that we feel we are a good fit for the family as well as the family is a good fit for one of our dogs. If a "breeder" you are speaking with will not allow you to meet them personally and use the excuse they are protecting the health of their puppies…RUN! Don't waste your time as they are not legit! You are not only investing a lot of money but also your heart as your new puppy will be a part of your life for the next 12-15 years!

We firmly believe that God watches over us and has blessed our dogs and our breeding program to protect it and allow it to be a blessing to others. It is our belief that at the end of the day, investing a little more money into your puppy now should save you both in the future — and you'll be supporting a breeder that pours a great deal of money, energy, time, and love into each puppy that comes out of their program. Plus, it is our hope that we will be life-long friends and have a good relationship for years to come!

It is the prayer of the Converses' that our CPL Families are our good friends because the families purchasing their puppy from us are not simply clients but have become family!