

Why are Bulldogs so expensive?

English Bulldogs do not always make the best of Mothers. Most have to have a cesarean section for birthing. After a surgery, moms are not always with it, like us humans after having surgery. They will often hurt the pups without knowing. Pups are not left with the mom unsupervised and assistance is needed. Pups are often groggy themselves and need help initially with eating and defecation. Bulldog moms are clumsy, stubborn, and most often don't really care much for the pups. Due to their skull/jaw structure they are not able to lick/clean up and stimulate pups to potty properly. Most bulldog moms have no interest in doing so in my experience. Pups need to eat every couple of hrs. The pups are taken away from mom when not supervised as she will often smother pups due to their lazy stubborn nature. Bulldogs are not the brightest when it comes to the initial puppy rearing. Pups are offered to the mother every couple hours to nurse. After a nursing session with mom, pups are often bottle fed in addition to nursing on mom to ensure they are full and have proper nutrition. Some situations require only bottle feeding or even tube feeding of pups for various reasons. Raising a bulldog litter takes an extreme amount of work and time from the breeder. Speaking for myself, I may get an average of 2 hours of sleep per day, and quite often that is broken up throughout the day. For the first

few weeks until pups are big enough to leave with mom, I am up around the clock with them. This puts a physical and mental toll on me as a breeder. If the pups are not able to continue on with mom after the first 2-3 weeks, around the clock feedings are required until the pups can start eating puppy food on their own. Raising a bulldog litter is truly a labor of LOVE.

Imagine if this was a paying job at basic min wage before taxes. How much is your time worth? The average person may work 40-60 hrs per week. Raising a bulldog litter requires 154 hrs a week, if you're late to work or fall asleep on the job, which may result in the fatality of pups.

3wks = 21days @ 22hrs per day = 462hrs

462hrs @ min wage \$7.50hr. = \$3,465

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I've done a little breakdown of average expense of raising a litter of 3.

Out of Pocket expense

- Purchase price of Mother = \$2,500
- Stud Fee = \$500
- Cesarean Section = \$1,000
- Puppy food x 8wks = \$360
- 1st puppy shot/ d-wormer = \$15 per pup (if given by the breeder) X3pups = \$45
- Vet check = \$40 office call + \$15 per pup X3pups = \$85
- Puppy supplies = \$100+ (puppy milk replacer \$50 4lb bag, paper towels, blankets, towels, cleaning supplies, potty papers/pads, teething toys, feeding dishes, scale, first aid kits, etc.)
- Electric Heating pad, cost per month 24hr day = \$25month
- Whelping pen/puppy pen Minimum Average cost \$200

Total = \$4,815

Out of pocket total ~ \$4,815

Labor for 3 wks ~ \$3,465

Total = \$8,280

3 pups in the litter priced \$1,800, \$1,800, & \$2,000 = \$5,600
subtract the out of pocket expense -\$4,815= \$785

That totals out to \$1.69hr for just the first 3 weeks of raising the pups. Would you work for less than 1.69 hr? Would you miss holidays or special events with your family because you have a litter of pups that need you home?

Let's not forget the other expenses and time put into a litter that was not included in the out of pocket/labor expenses above.

- Food & Vet care for mother until she is old enough to breed average of \$2000
- Ovulation/progesterone testing \$50+ per day @ min 3 times
- Artificial insemination \$100+ each time, min 2-3 times.
- Cost for central air conditioning during the summer months
- Fuel cost traveling for food, supplies, vet care, etc
- The other 5 weeks of labor caring for the litter.
- Taking pictures and advertising the pups is time consuming and can be costly depending on where and how much advertising.

- Taking calls, answering emails, text, messages and interviewing potential puppy parents is also extremely time consuming.

If you break it all down to the exact \$ amount spent out of pocket, it actually cost the breeder money to raise the mom and produce a litter of 3, without 1 cent counted for all the labor put into raising the litter. It is truly a labor of love!

This also applies to other breeds of dogs that may not require as much time feeding pups and monitoring in the first few weeks. Other breeds can also require as much commitment as a bulldog should there be unexpected complications. There are a lot of other expenses not itemized that are not listed. Such as health testing, other supplies and medical expense. Raising healthy socialized puppies takes a lot of money, knowledge, and time!

*** Please note, this is an explanation of my experience with breeding of my dogs. Other breeders may have more or less expenses and labor depending on their breeding practices and dogs.