

## Why Veterinary Care is so Expensive?

I hear you. It is probably one of the most commonly asked questions among pet owners. Even one of my clients stated that his doctor charged less.

Let's look a little closer about what it takes to keep a veterinary hospital running:

**Payroll:** One of the biggest investments and at the same time a huge expense for any hospital. The nice lady answering the phone to make an appointment or the knowledgeable technicians trimming nails or bathing dogs/cats need an income to pay their own bills and to make a living.

Many, many veterinarians graduate with huge student loans. Some of my classmates graduated with as much as \$250,000 in debt! The hiring hospital needs to pay these veterinarians a decent salary so they can cover their basic needs and have enough left to pay student loan monthly payment.

**Suppliers:** Every ear ointment, eye drops, prescription food, oral medications etc as well as office supplies, come from many providers. They charge the hospital for every single thing that is ordered. There are no breaks in their bill or discounts ( I wish!) and every single month their bill needs to be paid or the hospital may incur in fees and interests.

**Utilities:** Yes, we have to pay Comcast, Georgia Power, Gas South and other utility company! And at a commercial rate which is different and higher than residential.

**Bank Loans:** Imaging, surgery and, laboratory equipment are insanely expensive! An x ray unit can cost as much as \$50,000 for a very basic model. A machine for blood analysis can cost a hospital \$136,000 and don't get me started on surgery equipment. I remember I paid \$350 for an orthopedic screwdriver, yes a simple screwdriver.

**Taxes!** Yay! We all love them. And as small business owners we don't have it easy at all. The government think we make millions and that is so far from the truth. But we are charged taxes like if we had a huge gross income. Taxes need to be paid religiously every year.

**Regular hospitals vs 24 hour hospitals:** A regular hospital will keep its door open for the business hours and the overhead stops there for the day. A 24 hour facility will have to pay the staff for their time even if they don't have emergencies coming in. Usually their wages are higher including benefits to keep staff happy with their job. These hospitals have big buildings and land and that also constitutes an additional expense to the overhead.

Considering all the above, I feel lucky and blessed to count on all my wonderful clients for support. North Hills is a full functioning hospital in a small facility so our overhead is lower compared to other places.

As many of you know, I do my best to keep prices down in services, products and food.

Thank you again for being a loyal client.

Dr. Shuykin