

How Much Does an Axolotl Cost?

More and more people are drawn towards axolotls. These exotic little salamanders are absolute heart stealers with their adorable smiles and gentle demeanor. Now, who wouldn't want one?

But before you start to imagine life with an axolotl, it's imperative to know how much you would spend getting and caring for a pet axolotl.

On average, an axolotl costs between \$40 to \$150. This depends on the axolotl's age and morph or coloration. Then you add the delivery fee of about \$40 to \$60 and the initial setup that will cost you about \$100 to \$300. All in all, you should prepare around \$250 before buying a single axolotl.

Know more about how much you should prepare and all the details there are in getting an axolotl as you read on. So, let's dive right in.

What Is the Average Cost for Axolotl?

Healthy in-demand axolotls will cost you \$40 to \$150 as of this year. Likewise, you can get ones for about \$30 to \$75, but fine ones are between the range mentioned above. Expectedly, premium axolotls will cost you more.

Also, if you get younger axolotls, you don't have to pay much, but if you're a first-time owner, it's best to stick with older ones as raising young axolotls requires more skills.

Now, the true cost of axolotls will depend on several factors such as age, the rarity of the breed, and morph.

As mentioned, younger ones have lower prices. But in the end, you may find yourself spending more raising the hatchling axolotl. There's more work involved and if you don't have the time, better get a slightly older axolotl.

Then there's the rarity of your target axolotl. It's important to note that axolotls are generally classified as exotic animals. This has something to do with how they are regulated in the wild.

Nevertheless, breeders are able to let them reproduce in captivity and come up with exquisite axolotl breeds that become priced rarities in the pet world. As a result, these axolotls cost more.

For example, a firefly axolotl with a black upper body and a green luminescent tail is priced at about \$250. This is due to the fact that firefly axolotls are meticulously bred in the laboratory. Therefore, making them rare even among professional breeders.

On the other hand, morphs or coloration is another factor to consider when choosing an axolotl based on price. Morph is also associated with rarity, so expect to pay more if the morph you're looking for is rarely bred.

For example, one of the most common morphs is the leucistic axolotl, with an average price of \$45. Compare that with the piebald morph, which costs about \$300, and the difference is pretty apparent.

How Much Do Different Axolotl Morphs Cost?

Morphs among axolotls are a critical standard for some pet owners. But for others, it's not a fixed basis for preference. Nevertheless, axolotl morph generally determines the cost of the salamander.

But what is a morph, exactly?

Simply put, the morph is determined by the color combinations of the axolotl's skin. This also becomes the basis of their rarity.

Their morph depends on three kinds of pigments or chromatophores that generate the color. These pigments are inherited from two separate genes contributed by each parent.

Rare morphs are often bred in the laboratory to get the perfect colors associated with the morph.

Anyways, here's how much you would spend on average if you get an axolotl based on the morph.

Wild	\$40
Firefly	\$250
Copper	\$100
Enigma	\$1500
Piebald	\$300
Leucistic	\$45
Lavender	\$115
White Albino	\$40
Golden Albino	\$50
Black Melanoid	\$65
Speckle Leucistic	\$50
Green Fluorescent Protein	\$55

Which Axolotl Morph Is the Cheapest?

You would expect the more common axolotls to hold the lowest price, such as the leucistic, white albino, and wild axolotls. All of which costs between \$30 to \$45 depending on the age and the breeder's discretion.

One reason why these axolotl morphs are on the cheaper side is that they are bred relatively easily in captivity.

For example, with wild axolotls, you can simply let them breed on their own as they do in their natural habitat. Only this time, you are closely monitoring.

But with premium morphs, the breeding becomes more delicate to ensure that the right morph is achieved. So, intricate that, in some cases, it has to be done in a controlled laboratory setup.

Is It Illegal To Buy Axolotls?

Despite many people owning axolotls, it is noteworthy to mention that it remains illegal to have one in some states in the US. Therefore, before buying an axolotl, you need to check your local laws and see if there's anything against owning an axolotl.

To give you a rough guide, here are some areas and states that ban axolotls as pets: California, New Jersey, Maine, and Virginia.

On the other hand, you can own an axolotl in New Mexico and Hawaii provided that you secure the correct permit.

Likewise, despite being allowed to have axolotls as pets, you cannot import them. Hence, it would serve you well to acquire the axolotl within the area.

Other countries do not have strict policies on owning axolotls. But some also regulate its abundance in the area, similar to how these states do.

The reason behind this regulation is because axolotls are highly invasive species which means once they are released into the environment, they can disrupt the balance in the ecosystem.

Where Can You Buy Axolotls?

Axolotls are not the type of animals you commonly find in local pet shops. Their exotic status makes them elusive and unavailable in stores. Unless it is a reptile shop, then your chances of buying an axolotl are higher.

So, where can you get an axolotl for a reasonable price?

You have better chances of buying an axolotl online. Breeders can often be contacted through platforms such as [Fantaxies](#), [Ivy's Axolotls](#), [Axolotl Planet](#), and [Caudata.org](#). Also, you could explore reptile expos near you.

But just like in any other purchase, it is crucial to bring with you lots of research about axolotls before making a deal with any breeder - whether you found them online or elsewhere.

Always exercise safety precautions, especially when you're doing transactions with strangers.

How Much Does Delivery Costs?

Given that axolotls are not typically found in pet shops, you'll most likely have to order your axolotl from an online vendor. And with that comes the delivery fee.

Delivering a live animal, let alone an exotic one, door-to-door can be pricier than the standard rate. Nevertheless, it's better to allot around \$40 to \$60 for the delivery fee.

How Much Does the First-Time Setup Cost?

It's only logical to prepare a separate budget for items required in setting up your axolotl's home.

You wouldn't want to place your axolotl in a bucket before even buying a suitable house. That's going to endanger the life of your new pet and will push your money down the drain.

Read more about how to properly care for axolotls in this [guide](#).

Anyway, it is best to prepare the home before or as you are getting your axolotl. But how much does it cost?

In the next few lines, we will look into the typical price of essential items that will provide a comfortable living for your axolotl, starting with the tank.

Tank

A single axolotl needs at least a 29-gallon tank that will cost you between \$120 to \$150. You can go for a used one found in garage sales or online listings if you want something cheaper.

You may think this size is too much, but axolotls grow rather quickly. So instead of changing the tank, just anticipate the size and choose a large one. It will save you money that way.

Nonetheless, you can decide to go for a relatively smaller one, but this may come with unpleasant consequences.

Axolotls need a wider space to move around and make sure their wastes get diluted in large amounts of water. Otherwise, it drastically affects their health.

Learn more about axolotl tank sizes and which one fits the number of axolotls you intend to have when you [click here](#).

Water Testing Kit

The water condition in the tank is vital for your axolotl's health. The pH level should be set correctly, and wastes like ammonia and nitrates should not exceed the tolerable limits.

Therefore, part of your responsibility as a pet owner is making sure that the water adheres to the chemical requirements for an optimum water environment that will keep your axolotl consistently healthy.

To do that, you will need a water testing kit designed for aquariums. Buying the testing kit online will cost you roughly between \$15 to \$25.

Filter

A filter is often regarded as an optional device in your axolotl's aquarium. But if you do have one, it helps a lot in removing toxins within the water.

However, one misconception about tank filters that you should not believe for one bit is that they will keep the tank clean all the time.

Filter or not, you will have to replace the water if you value the life of your axolotl.

Nevertheless, if you want to install a filter in your axolotl's tank, consider the sponge filter priced at \$13 to \$20.

Sponge filters are friendlier to axolotls than any other type. This is because they don't create too much disturbance in the water that could cause stress to the axolotl.

Fan

Water temperature affects the mood and behavior of your axolotl.

The optimum temperature for an axolotl tank is between 60 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Below this range, the axolotl will have low energy and no interest even in food.

On the other hand, a higher temperature can cause anxiety and deteriorate your axolotl's health. It can even be fatal in the long run.

Needless to say, you have to ensure that the optimum temperature is consistent in your axolotl's tank. With that, adding a fan or cooler would help, especially if the ambient temperature where you house the tank is elevated.

You can use a fan priced at \$17 to \$25 or a more sophisticated cooler at \$200 to \$500.

Thermometer

On the subject of optimum temperature, you can regularly check water temperatures using a digital aquarium thermometer.

Using this device, you get the assurance that your axolotl gets the best water condition by getting an accurate reading.

You can buy a thermometer online for about \$10.50.

Turkey Baster

Handling axolotl wastes may not be ideal, but it is undeniably necessary. Only, how exactly do you do that?

Here's a key trick. You use a turkey baster to suck the axolotl poop out of the water. You can buy a turkey baster from your local grocery shop or supermarket. But you can also find one online, which will only cost you about \$10.

Just remember to clean the turkey baster every after use to prevent contamination when you use it again in the aquarium.

Also, this goes without saying, but ensure that the turkey baster is used for the sole purpose of removing the axolotl feces from the tank. You don't want any unpleasant mix-ups in the kitchen.

Should I Get Lighting and Substrate for the Axolotl Tank?

Both lighting and substrates are items that are generally regarded as unnecessary or optional on your axolotl tank.

First off, you may be concerned that your axolotl lacks lighting in their home. But in reality, axolotls do not need light. In the wild, they are used to minimum light. Additionally, installing a lighting system can cause stress to your axolotl, especially strong bright ones.

On the other hand, substrates are also deemed optional. Axolotls can live without them in the tank. Still, adding substrates can help your axolotl get more grip on the floor. Plus, these materials can trap waste and keep decorations in place.

How Much Does Regular Axolotl Care Cost?

Food takes the primary cost for axolotl care. But unlike other pets, axolotls do not need much when it comes to feeding.

You can give them some worms, insects, small fish, brine shrimps, and salmon pellets. With that, you can spend about \$5 to \$20 on the food. This would depend on the type of food you feed.

Of course, it would be preferable to provide some diversity in your axolotl's diet. Moreover, younger axolotls tend to eat more than adults.

For example, a juvenile axolotl can consume about four worms a day while the adult counterpart eats three mid-sized nightcrawlers every after two days.

How Much Does Medical Care Cost?

Bringing your axolotl to the vet, especially at the time you acquire it, is crucial to ensure that pre-existing conditions are checked, that is if ever there are some. This will cost you anywhere from \$50 to \$100.

Naturally, your expenses may vary depending on the type of axolotl you have. Once again, rarity plays a huge part in the level of care needed by the axolotl.

On the other hand, if the breeder ensures that the axolotl is healthy, you can simply observe the salamander first.

If their health continues to be prime, just make sure that they are not subjected to any potential harm. But if they show signs of deterioration, find a vet that could attend to your axolotl as soon as possible.

Final Thoughts

And just like that, you've reached the end of this guide. Axolotls are not exactly cheap pets, but they are worth every penny. Coming home to these adorable salamanders is a joy for every pet owner.

When choosing your first axolotl, consider the type of morph you like and match it with your budget. It helps to know that rarer morphs are far more expensive than common ones.

Also, don't forget the delivery fee if you order an axolotl online. Likewise, remember the overall costs for setting up your axolotl's new home.

It would help to come up with a list so that you don't forget any essential items.