

away from the track are generally less than expenses when a horse is in training. The daily training fee is set such that it covers the trainer's employee costs, feed and bedding for his or her horses-in-training, tack and supplies, and other general maintenance expenses. The trainer bills expenses, other than daily maintenance expenses, directly to the owner. These other expenses include: trainer commissions for winning races, veterinarian expenses, equine transport expenses, farrier expenses, jockey fees, board expenses when a horse is layed up or turned out, and "other" expenses.

The distribution of owner expenses from this survey is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of Owner Expenditures

Expenditure Category	Average Per Horse	Percent
Trainer Fees	\$6,695	46.3%
Veterinarian	\$1,611	11.2%
Trainer Commissions	\$1,458	10.1%
Jockey Fees/Commissions	\$1,040	7.2%
Depreciation-Equine	\$744	5.2%
Board (turnouts/layups)	\$416	2.9%
Vanning/Transport	\$346	2.4%
Farrier	\$339	2.3%
Tack and Supplies	\$219	1.5%
Stable Bonuses	\$175	1.2%
All Other	\$1,402	9.7%
Total Expenditures	\$14,445	100.0%
*Average horses per owner = 3.5		

Licensed West Virginia race horse owners responded that, on average, they had 3.5 horses in training. The average cost per horse, including both time on and off the racetrack, was \$14,445.

An examination of the distribution of expenditures shows that, at 46% of total expenditures, daily trainer fees are by far the largest race horse owner cost. When trainer commissions are added to the daily fee, payments to trainers account for over half, or 56% of an owner's total expenditures.

Daily Training Fee

Owners reported an average daily training fee of \$28 which they paid to trainers for keeping their horses in training at the PNGI Charles Town racetrack.