AAHA ACCREDITATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

AAHA’s Mission Statement:
• Enhance the abilities of veterinarians to provide quality medical care to companion animals.
• Enable veterinarians to successfully conduct their practices and maintain their facilities with the highest standards of excellence.
• Meet the public’s needs as they relate to the delivery of small animal veterinary medicine.

AAHA’s Core Statement:
Accreditation through the American Animal Hospital Association ensures that a veterinary practice is operating at the highest standards of excellence in pet care. Veterinarians and pet owners know pets at AAHA-accredited practices receive the highest quality care from well-trained, professional veterinary teams.

AAHA’s Benefit Statements:
As the only organization that accredits veterinary practices in the U.S. and Canada, the American Animal Hospital Association sets the highest standard for quality pet care. Veterinary practices that accept the challenge of accreditation are evaluated on 900 quality standards that encompass all aspects of pet care – ranging from patient care and pain management, to team training and medical record keeping. AAHA standards are continuously updated to keep accredited practices at the forefront of veterinary medicine. Through accreditation, veterinarians gain external validation that their practices and teams operate at the highest standards. Pet owners gain peace of mind because they know their AAHA-accredited practice team is one they can trust to provide the very best care for their beloved pets.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding AAHA-Accreditation:

What is AAHA?
AAHA stands for the American Animal Hospital Association, a professional association of veterinary hospitals founded in 1933. AAHA is the only organization that provides accreditation for the veterinary practices throughout the U.S. and Canada. Accreditation is voluntary and we have chosen to be accredited because of our commitment to excellence in small animal care.

What are the requirements for accreditation?
To become accredited, hospitals must comply with the AAHA Standards of Accreditation. AAHA standards cover almost every aspect of running a veterinary practice, from providing high quality care for patients, to providing excellent client service. While some states inspect practices, the voluntary AAHA evaluation covers 19 areas and helps practices comply with DEA and OSHA/WHIMS requirements.

During the evaluation, we are asked to meet 46 mandatory standards and to address about 900 other standards of care. It’s an opportunity for us to have an outside independent consultant provide feedback on what we are doing well and identify areas where we may want to make changes and improvements. Practices are evaluated on site every 3 years (or every 2 years if you’ve only been through an evaluation process once.)

How does our AAHA accreditation benefit our clients and the pets they love?
The AAHA standards were developed with high quality care in mind. By following the standards, we are in a better position to provide patients with the best in veterinary care. AAHA standards are a mark of distinction that sets our practice apart from others. It means we’ve worked hard to create, implement and update our protocols and to periodically review the procedures we’re doing to make sure we’re up-to-date and being the best we can be.

How many practices are accredited?
Approximately 15% of small animal practices in the U.S. are AAHA-accredited. Approximately 7% of Canadian small animal practices are accredited by AAHA.
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Achieving AAHA accreditation is an important milestone to delivering quality care. By promoting this accomplishment we can reassure clients of the excellent choice they have made in selecting Coral Springs Animal Hospital for their pet’s veterinary care.

In addition to traditional accreditation as a General Practice, we also have specialty accreditations in Surgery, Oncology, Internal Medicine, and Cardiology.

“Being AAHA-accredited both traditionally and as a referral hospital is something we are all extremely proud of – it is a true testament of our commitment to providing the highest standards of veterinary care to our clients and their beloved pets.”

- Shayne Gardner, CVT, Hospital Manager

AAHA Importance to You and Your Pet

AAHA is the only organization that accredits animal hospitals throughout the U.S. and Canada. AAHA-accredited hospitals voluntarily choose to be evaluated on 900 standards in the following areas: quality of care; diagnostic & pharmacy; management; medical records; and facility. Why does this matter to you? Here are a few examples of how AAHA’s standards impact you and your pet:

- The standards require hospitals to provide diagnostic services (x-ray and laboratory) so that they can quickly and accurately diagnose your pet.
- The standards focus on the quality of care in the areas of: anesthesia, contagious diseases, dentistry, pain management, patient care, surgery and emergency care.
- Accredited hospitals have an onsite pharmacy (another standards area) so they can begin treatment immediately.
- AAHA standards also require that medical records be thorough and complete which helps them to better understand your pet’s medical history and how past health issues might be impacting their current medical status.

Because of the AAHA Standards of Accreditation, you can be sure that your pet will receive top-quality care at an AAHA-accredited hospital like Coral Springs Animal Hospital.

If you would like additional or more detailed information, please refer to the AAHA pet owner website: www.healthypet.com