Senior dogs and cats represent 44% of the pet population, and they deserve the best care we can offer in their senior years.

Here are just a few of the ways you and your team can become champions for senior pets:

Let family members know that aging is not a disease, and there's a lot they can do to make their senior pets' golden years enjoyable AND rewarding.

Because of variations in breed, size, lifespan, and species, senior plans cannot be one-size-fits-all.

Healthy and unhealthy senior pets require different approaches to management.

Plan ahead for senior pet appointments:

- Schedule extra time
- Discuss expectations and progression with clients
- Offer handouts/resources to support and educate clients

Create physical spaces that are senior friendly, including:

- Designated rooms for seniors that are calm and noise-free
- Use of ramps, rugs, and floors with good traction
- Plenty of padding and soft bedding for seniors in exam rooms, treatment areas, and kennels
- Create and use pre-visit questionnaires, videos, and pictures to mark progress/progression in senior patients

Recognize that senior care is multifaceted and includes:

- Medical and interventional therapies
- Behavioral management
- Awareness of comorbidities
- Environmental modification

AAHA www.aaha.org/senior-care