



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence

CONTACT:
Kate Wessels
Senior Communications Manager
720-963-4479
kate.wessels@aaha.org

Quick facts about the American Animal Hospital Association

- AAHA accredits small animal hospitals throughout both the United States and Canada.
- Unlike human hospitals, accreditation is not required for veterinary hospitals.
- Nearly 60% of pet owners believe that their pet's veterinary hospital is accredited when it is not.
- Requirements for accreditation often surpass those required by states. State regulations for veterinary hospitals vary widely – some state examiners will never inspect a veterinary practice unless a complaint is filed.
- Veterinary practices that choose to be AAHA-accredited are evaluated regularly on approximately 900 standards of care.
- There are over 3,500 AAHA-accredited hospitals in Canada and the United States.
- AAHA also accredits veterinary practices within animal shelters and humane societies. As of 2015, there were 18 accredited humane societies.
- Founded by seven leaders of the veterinary profession in 1933, AAHA has been recognized for years as a leader for the veterinary industry and profession.
- In addition to accrediting companion animal hospitals, AAHA also develops veterinary guidelines and position statements, publishes educational texts, and offers world-class continuing education for veterinary professionals.
- AAHA is committed to helping lost pets get back to their owners – the AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup tool helps pet owners and shelters determine which microchip company a chip is registered with: www.petmicrochiplookup.org
- Pet owners can find an accredited veterinary practice by looking for the red AAHA logo, and by searching AAHA's hospital search tool online: www.aaha.org/petowner