



# Yosemite Pet Hospital, Inc

*Exceptional Care...*

*for Exceptional Pets*

To our wonderful Patients... and their caring Owners.

**RE: Senior Care guidelines to help keep your aging Dogs and Cats in “Tip-Top Shape”**  
Some helpful tips provided by AAHA.



*Dedicated to  
Veterinary  
Excellence*

Thanks to advances in veterinary medicine, pets are living longer than ever before. However, with this increased life span comes an increase in the types of ailments that can affect senior pets. To assist veterinary hospitals in offering optimal care for senior pets, the American Animal Hospital Association has released the AAHA Senior Care Guidelines for Dogs and Cats.

Just as health care needs for us humans change as we age, the same applies to pets. These AAHA guidelines provide a framework to help provide optimal care for all senior pets.

**When is a pet considered “Senior”?** Generally, smaller breeds of dogs live longer than larger breeds, and cats live longer than dogs. A cat or small dog may be considered senior at 10-13 years of age, while a large or giant breed dog may be considered senior by the age of 5 years old. Yosemite Pet Hospital can help you determine at what stage of life your furry friend is in.

When dogs and cats enter their senior years, regular health examinations are more important than ever. These help to catch and delay the onset of progress of disease and provide early detection of problems such as organ failure and osteoarthritis. The AAHA Senior Care Guidelines recommend that healthy senior dogs and cats visit the veterinarian every six months for a comprehensive examination and laboratory testing.

Yosemite Pet Hospital makes use of laboratory tests, such as blood tests, urinalysis and others to detect signs of sickness in pets. Subtle changes in your pet’s lab test results over the course of his or her lifetime may signal the presence of an underlying disease. Recommended lab tests include a complete blood count, urinalysis, blood chemistry panel and fecal examination for healthy dogs and cats. Additional tests may be recommended if you pet shows signs of sickness.

The computerized medical records systems used at Yosemite Pet Hospital allow us to easily chart and track the history of your pet’s testing results. Any changes or trends in your pet’s laboratory and test results can quickly be recognized and monitored. It is critical for pet owners and veterinarians to work together as a team to develop a health plan, including appropriate diet and exercise, which is best for their senior pet.

The AAHA guidelines also outline common health conditions as well as aspects of screening, diagnosis, treatment, anesthesia, pain management and surgery that are particular to senior pets. They provide a framework to help veterinarians evaluate an aging pet’s quality of life and assist pet owners with creating the best possible environment to extend this healthy quality of life as pets move further into their senior years.

Yosemite Pet Hospital is a member of the American Animal Hospital Association, and international organization of more than 33,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. Established in 1933, the association is well known among veterinarians for its high standard for hospitals and pet health care. For more pet care information, pet owners can visit the AAHA website: [www.healtypet.com](http://www.healtypet.com).

You can also receive more information on Yosemite Pet Hospital at our website: [www.Yosemitepet.com](http://www.Yosemitepet.com)

We look forward to working with you and your pets to help you provide a healthy lifestyle for your companion pet.

Sincerely,  
Yosemite Pet Hospital, Inc.

Sheila Langrock, DVM