# **Hillside’s “Ah-ha” moment: Becoming AAHA Accredited**

by [Hillside Animal Hospital](https://www.hillsideanimalhospital.net/author/squidgital/) | Feb 11, 2022 | [Blog](https://www.hillsideanimalhospital.net/category/blog/)



Ah-Ha!! We are here to bring you an “ah-ha” moment. Did you know that Hillside Animal Hospital is AAHA (said “ah-ha”) accredited?

AAHA is an acronym for American Animal Hospital Association. In 2015 Hillside joined the elite 12-15% of companion animal hospitals around the country in becoming an accredited member of this association. We were evaluated on approximately 900 rigorous veterinary standards. There are a total of 3700 hospitals in the U.S. and Canada that are held to a higher standard of excellent care. We are proud to be an AHHA-accredited hospital.

Every 2 years Hillside is evaluated to ensure that we are continuing to be a thorough, responsive, sanitary, and safe hospital for your pets. Being thorough means that your animal will get a complete physical examination during their visit and if they are in the hospital for a procedure, all of their vital signs will be carefully monitored throughout anesthesia. Beingresponsive means that Hillside is ready for emergencies with appropriate medications and tools that are in an easily accessible location. Being sanitary means that we take every precaution to prevent the spread of disease with disinfectants and thorough cleaning. Being safe is very important to everyone involved in a visit, especially your pet. Hillside has appropriately trained staff to humanely handle your 4-legged friend.

AAHA has a list of guidelines for behavior, dental care, weight management, nutrition, pain management, and feline life stages. These recommendations for quality care are closely followed by accredited hospitals, but are also good guidelines for pet owners. Hillside’s goal is to work with owners as a team to allow their animal companions to lead long, healthy lives. The American Animal Hospital Association website aaha.org can be a resource for veterinary/client team to stay up to date on the latest guidelines and to find relevant articles on animal health and care.

So, if you are saying, AAHA, then you have found the right practice to take care of your furry friends.

–Dr. Claire Beckmeyer, Hillside Veterinarian ​
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