SENIOR DOG DAILY

Holiday Visitors and Senior Dogs

A one-page family care plan for the gathering when you are home

Date: _____ Visitor window: _____ Household: _____

Fill this in on your own copy and keep it with the medication record. This is a coordination tool, not a medical assessment. Give every task one lead and one backup, and confirm the handoff aloud.

Task	Lead	When or trigger, and handoff	Backup
Door and arrival control		Before guests arrive. One person handles the door while the other settles her.	
Meals and prescribed medicines		Follow the existing plan. Record what was given in the usual medication log.	
Guest boundaries		At the door, before guests meet her. No table food, no disturbing her rest.	
Toileting and familiar routes		According to her current needs. Keep her path to the yard and water clear.	
Quiet-space care and company		Check water and comfort. Agree on who swaps in and when.	
Veterinary contacts and transport		Keep the clinic and nearest emergency contact ready before the gathering.	

END-OF-DAY CHECK Each lead confirms the task happened and the backup knew. [ ] Yes [ ] No, follow up: _____

Veterinarian: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency clinic: _____ Phone: _____

Animal poison service: _____ Medication record kept at: _____

New or worsening change: call the veterinarian. **Trouble breathing, sudden collapse, severe pain, straining to pee with little or no urine, or suspected poisoning or medication ingestion:** get emergency help now.

Sources: AAHA Thanksgiving Safety Tips; AAHA 2023 Senior Care Guidelines (senior care kits, pain management). Version 1.0, 2026-10-26. Senior Dog Daily. Private copy: fill in your own details and share only with the people who need them.