

PAIN ASSESSMENT IS PART OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND CAN BE DIVIDED IN TWO PARTS

Observations

Posture, comfort, activity, attitude, body position, facial expressions



Observing the patient from a distance will identify pain-induced behaviours and changes in facial expressions.

Dynamic and interactive

Reaction to touch and palpation of the painful area/wound



Gentle interaction with the patient is important during pain assessment and includes touch/palpation of the wound.

ACUTE PAIN SCORING TOOLS WITH REPORTED VALIDITY ARE USED FOR PAIN ASSESSMENT IN DOGS AND CATS

Dogs

Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale - Short form (CMPS-SF)

University of Melbourne Pain Scoring System



Palpation of the wound/painful area is required to complete pain scoring systems in dogs. Reaction to gentle palpation (e.g. vocalization, escape behavior) should be part of the physical examination.

Cats

Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale: Feline

Short-form UNESP Botucatu

Feline Grimace Scale



INCREASING PAIN →

Source: Evangelista et al. 2020, PeerJ

The Feline Grimace Scale is a reliable, valid and easy-to-use instrument for acute pain assessment in cats. (www.felinegrimacescale.com)

PAIN SCORE - IS THERE A NEED FOR RESCUE ANALGESIA (E.G. OPIOID ADMINISTRATION)?

Building an analgesic plan

The four questions in acute pain*

1 – Is there a local anesthetic block that I can use?

Lidocaine
Bupivacaine
Ropivacaine

2 – What is the opioid of preference?

From most to least effective:
Methadone/Fentanyl
Buprenorphine
Butorphanol

3 – Are there contraindications for NSAID administration?

Examples:
Carprofen
Meloxicam
Robenacoxib

4- Is there a need for adjuvant analgesics?

Tramadol (cats) variable effect; Ketamine and/or gabapentin, etc. : prevention of persistent post surgical pain

*Suggested dosage regimens are presented in the notes

The publishers and authors cannot take responsibility for information provided on dosages and methods of application of drugs mentioned and referred to in this publication. Details of this kind must be verified in each case by individual users from up to date published literature. Veterinary surgeons are reminded to follow all appropriate national legislation and regulations.



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