Canine CHRONIC PAIN SCALE



Many signs of chronic pain are non-specific; rule out anxiety, poor general health, and systemic disease as part of a full workup.

Pain Score	Example	Psychological & Behavioral	Postural	Response to Palpation
0 +		☐ Happy, energetic ☐ Interested in or curious about surroundings ☐ Responsive; seeks attention	☐ Comfortable when resting ☐ Stands and walks normally ☐ Normal weight bearing on all limbs	☐ Minimal body tension ☐ Does not mind touch ☐ No reaction to palpation of joint
1 +		☐ Subdued to slightly unsettled or restless ☐ Distracted easily by surroundings ☐ Responsive; may not initiate interaction	☐ Stands normally, may occasionally shift weight ☐ Slight lameness when walking	☐ Mild body tension ☐ Does not mind touch except painful area ☐ Turns head in recognition of joint palpation
2 +		□ Anxious, uncomfortable □ Not eager to interact with people or surroundings but will look around to see what is going on □ Loss of brightness in eyes □ Reluctant to respond when beckoned	☐ Abnormal weight distribution when standing ☐ Moderate lameness when walking ☐ May be uncomfortable at rest	☐ Mild to moderate body tension ☐ Doesn't mind touch far away from painful area ☐ Pulls limb away during palpation of affected joint Reassess analgesic plan
3 +		☐ Fearful, agitated, or aggressive ☐ Avoids interaction with people and surroundings ☐ May lick or otherwise attend to painful area	□ Abnormal posture when standing □ Does not bear weight on affected limb when walking □ Guards painful area by shifting body position	☐ Moderate body tension ☐ Tolerates touch far away from affected limb ☐ Vocalizes or responds aggressively to palpation of affected joint Reassess analgesic plan
4		☐ Stuporous, depressed ☐ Potentially unresponsive to surroundings ☐ Difficult to distract from pain	☐ Reluctant to rise and will not walk more than 5 strides ☐ Does not bear weight on limb ☐ Appears uncomfortable at rest	☐ Moderate to severe body tension ☐ Dislikes or barely tolerates any touch (may be experiencing allodynia, wind-up, or fearful that pain could be made worse) ☐ Will not allow palpation of joint Reassess analgesic plan

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Date _____ Time____
Additional Comments:



Dr. Michelle V. Rose DVM, CCRP

(415) 326-4838 · mrose@mrosevet.com www.mrosevet.com