How do we know they hurt? Assessing Acute Pain in Dogs

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1. Normal behaviors
2. Loss of normal behaviors
3. Development of new behaviors
Normal Postures and Behaviors

WHAT DO DOGS DO WHEN THEY GET UP?
A full body “dog shake”

Video credit
Dr. Alicia Karas
Subjectivity and Bias

The Wine Advocate Rating System
Bias

The Drama Queen

The Husky

(Mis)Labeling animals
Pain is a unique individual experience

“STOIC”

“WIMPY”
Not currently validated – but has a lot of merit
Acute Pain Measurements for Dogs:

English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish

www.newmetrica.com

Glasgow Composite Measures Pain Scale

7 behavior categories

1. Demeanor and response to people
2. Posture
3. Mobility
4. Activity
5. Response to touch
6. Attention to wound
7. Vocalization
Development of the short-form Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale (CMPS-SF) and derivation of an analgesic intervention score

J Reid\textsuperscript{a}, AM Nolan\textsuperscript{b}, JML Hughes\textsuperscript{c}, D Lascelles\textsuperscript{d}, P Pawson\textsuperscript{e} and EM Scott\textsuperscript{f}

Intervention
≥ 6/24 if mobility assessed

Animal Welfare 2007

Intervention
≥ 5/20 if not ambulatory

Animal Welfare 2007
Pain behaviors

**SPONTANEOUS**
1. Vocalization
2. Attention to wound
3. Postures

**EVOKED**
1. Getting up
2. Palpation

**OBSERVATION & INTERACTION**

Immobility
Don’t move because it will hurt
Vocalization

Look at dog in Kennel

*Is the dog:*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiet</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crying or whimpering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groaning</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screaming</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comfort and posture

*Is the dog:*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comfortable</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsettled</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restless</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hunched or tense</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigid</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Postures

Observation alone is not enough
Response to palpation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do nothing</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look round</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flinch</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growl/guard</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snap</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cry</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mobility

Put lead on dog and lead out of the kennel

*When the dog rises / walks is it:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lame</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow or reluctant</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiff</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuses to move</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
A. Look at dog in Kennel

Is the dog
(i) Quiet 0
(ii) Crying or whimpering 1
(iii) Groaning 2
(iv) Screaming 3

Please tick if this is the case [ ] then proceed to C

B. Put lead on dog and lead out of the kennel

When the dog rises/walks is it?

(i) Normal 0
(ii) Lame 1
(iii) Slow or reluctant 2
(iv) Stiff 3
(v) It refuses to move 4

C. If it has a wound or painful area including abdomen, apply gentle pressure 2 inches round the site

Does it?

(i) Do nothing 0
(ii) Look round 1
(iii) Finch 2
(iv) Gwo or guard area 3
(v) Snap 4
(vi) Cry 5

D. Overall

Is the dog?

(i) Happy and content or happy and bouncy 0
(ii) Quiet 1
(iii) Indifferent or non-responsive to surroundings 2
(iv) Nervous or anxious or fearful 3
(v) Depressed or non-responsive to stimulation 4

Total Score (i+ii+iii+iv+v+vi) = 

Veterinary Medicine

ART

SCIENCE
This instrument should not constitute the sole method for determining when an animal needs analgesic therapy.

It should be part of the overall assessment of a patient’s need for pain control.

*Use in conjunction with clinical judgment*

No animal should be denied analgesic therapy on the basis of this instrument alone.
When do you score?

After recovery from anesthesia
If pain is ≥ intervention level; treat
Reassess within 45-60 minutes
If score is ≤ intervention level; reassess in 2 hours

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS