

Canine Acute Pain Scale

For assessment of acutely painful conditions and postsurgical assessment

PATIENT: DATE:
OWNER: TIME:

PAIN SCORE

Owner Assessment

Behavioral

Veterinarian Assessment

Response to Palpation

Body Tension



0

- ☐ Comfortable at rest
- ☐ Happy, content
- ☐ Interested in surroundings

- ☐ Not bothered by palpation of wound/incision or elsewhere

Minimal



1

- ☐ Content to slightly unsettled
- ☐ Distracted easily by surroundings

- ☐ Reacts to palpation of painful area/incision site
- ☐ Flinching/Whimpering

Mild



2

- ☐ Looks uncomfortable at rest
- ☐ May whimper/cry/lick painful area
- ☐ Worried facial expression
- ☐ Reluctant to respond
- ☐ Not eager to interact with surroundings but remains intrigued by what's going on

- ☐ Flinches, whimpers, cries
- ☐ Guards/pulls away

Mild to Moderate
Reassess
analgesic pain

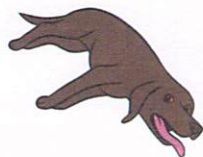


3

- ☐ Unsettled, crying, groaning
- ☐ Biting/chewing painful area
- ☐ Guards/protects painful area
- ☐ May be unwilling to move

- ☐ Reaction may be subtle if too painful to move/stoic
- ☐ May be dramatic: sharp cry/growl/bite

Moderate
Reassess
analgesic pain



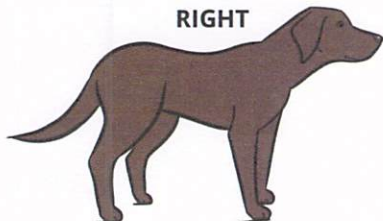
4

- ☐ Constantly groaning/screaming
- ☐ May bite/chew at painful area but unlikely to move
- ☐ Potentially unresponsive
- ☐ Difficult to distract from pain

- ☐ Cries at palpation
- ☐ Reacts aggressively

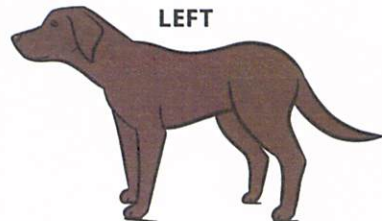
Moderate to Severe
May be rigid
Reassess
analgesic pain

RIGHT



- Painful palpation
- × Warm to touch
- Tense

LEFT



COMMENTS: