Notes for:
Assessment of acute pain in cats using scoring systems

domain: 0-10

- Behavior
- Activity
- Grimace
- Posture
- Vocalization

key slides from the presentation & the pain scales

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Pain assessment is the 4th vital sign

**Observational**
Posture, attitude, body position, facial expression, etc.

**Interactive**
Reaction to touch/palpation of wound or painful area
Acute pain scoring tools with **NO** validity testing in cats

01 University of Melbourne Pain Scale

02 Colorado Feline Pain Scale

03 Visual analog and numerical rating scales
Acute pain scoring tools with validity testing in cats

01 Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale: Feline

02 UNESP-Botucatu multidimensional composite pain scale

03 Feline Grimace Scale
Comparison of pain scoring tools

**Glasgow**
- Validated for any type of acute pain
- Easy to use
- Observation of behaviour
- Response to palpation
- Facial expression
- 7 questions

**UNESP-Botucatu**
- Validated for spay surgery
- Time-consuming, need training
- Observation of behaviour
- Response to palpation
- Appetite, blood pressure
- 10 questions

**Feline Grimace Scale**
- Validated for any type of acute pain
- Easy to use
- Facial expression
- 5 questions
There may be confounding factors...

- Individual cat personality
- Fear & stress in the hospital
- Effects of some anesthetic drugs
- Effects of some diseases
- Lack of training to use scoring tools
ASSESSMENT OF ACUTE PAIN IN CATS BASED ON CHANGES IN FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Improving feline health and welfare

Pain is often difficult to recognize in cats due to their unique behavior. Veterinary health professionals do not always receive education on the subject making pain recognition a daily challenge in feline medicine.

The Feline Grimace Scale is a valid, fast, reliable and easy-to-use tool that can help with pain assessment. Based on the scores of the Feline Grimace Scale, it is possible to know if the administration of analgesics (i.e. pain killers) is required helping veterinarians with clinical
www.animalpain.com.br

Excellent training videos
Pain management protocols

- Cesarean patients
  - Cesarean patients (EN, ES, PT)

- Cancer related pain
  - Cancer related pain (EN, ES, PT)

- Castration and ovariohysterectomy/ovariectomy in Cats
  - Castration and ovariohysterectomy/ovariectomy in Cats (EN, ES, PT)

- Castration and ovariohysterectomy/ovariectomy in Dogs
  - Castration and ovariohysterectomy/ovariectomy in Dogs (EN, ES, PT)

- Degenerative joint disease
  - Degenerative joint disease (EN, ES, PT)

- Emergency and critical care
  - Emergency and critical care (EN, ES, PT)

- Medical pain
  - Medical pain (EN, ES)

- Neonatal and pediatric patients
  - Neonatal and pediatric patients (EN, ES, PT)

- Neuropathic pain
  - Neuropathic pain (EN, ES, PT)

- Orthopedic surgery
  - Orthopedic surgery (EN, ES, PT)

- Pregnant or lactating patients
  - Pregnant or lactating patients (EN, ES, PT)

- Soft tissue surgery
  - Soft tissue surgery (EN, ES, PT)

- Perceived level of pain associated with various conditions
  - Perceived level of pain associated with various conditions (EN, ES, PT)
Guidelines for the Recognition, Assessment and Treatment of Pain

Endorsement

List of Member Associations that have endorsed the Global Pain Council guidelines.

Endorse the Global Pain Council guidelines.

Global Pain Council Endorsement request
2015 AAHA/AAFP Pain Management Guidelines for Dogs and Cats

Rationale: The robust advances in pain management for companion animals underlie the decision of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) to expand on the information provided in the 2007 AAHA/AAFP Pain Management Guidelines. The 2015 Guidelines summarize and offer a discriminating review of much of this new knowledge.

Relevance: Pain management is central to veterinary practice, alleviating pain, improving patient outcomes, and enhancing both quality of life and the veterinarian–client–patient relationship. These Guidelines support veterinarians in incorporating pain management into practice, improving patient care.
Check out the videos in the supplementary material
Premier Review

Practical use of opioids in cats: a state-of-the-art, evidence-based review

Elisa Bortolami and Emma J. Love
Final thoughts ...

• No cat should have to prove it is in pain before you provide analgesia.
• If the pain score is good but you think you can do better, trust yourself.
• We now have validated acute pain scoring tools – use one!