

Acute pain assessment scale for cats

Based on the University of Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale - Feline

Introduction: The Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale - Feline (CMPS-F) is a structured questionnaire, completed by an observer following a standard protocol. It includes assessment of spontaneous and evoked behaviours, interactions with the animal and clinical observations to measure acute pain in cats. This scale has been formulated using sound scientific methods. This current version provides a practical means of assessing the quality of acute pain management and aids decision making for further analgesic requirements.

Instructions: It is important to carry out the assessment procedure as described on the questionnaire, following the protocol closely. If more than one expression applies choose the higher score. The pain score is the sum of the rank scores. Analgesic intervention should not be based solely on this scale but on overall veterinary assessment; as a guide, intervention is recommended with scores of 5/20 or more.




Cat's Name		ID No	
Condition		Date	

Time of assessment				
Vet / Nurse initials				
Observation	Observation 1	Observation 2	Observation 3	Observation 4




Observe the cat in the cage, is the cat...

1	Silent / purring / meowing	0	0	0	0
	Crying / growling / groaning	1	1	1	1
2	Relaxed	0	0	0	0
	Licking lips	1	1	1	1
	Restless / cowering at back of cage	2	2	2	2
	Tense / crouched	3	3	3	3
3	Rigid / hunched	4	4	4	4
	Ignoring any wound or painful area	0	0	0	0
	Paying attention to wound	1	1	1	1

Look at the ear position in the following pictures. Circle the score which appears most like that of the cat...

4	  	0	0	0	0
		1	1	1	1
		2	2	2	2

Look at the shape of the muzzle in the following pictures. Circle the score which appears most like that of the cat...

5	  	0	0	0	0
		1	1	1	1
		2	2	2	2

Approach the cage; call the cat by name and stroke along its back from head to tail, is the cat...

6	Responsive to stroking	0	0	0	0
	Unresponsive	1	1	1	1
	Aggressive	2	2	2	2

Apply gentle pressure 5cm around the site of the wound or painful area. In the absence of any painful area apply similar pressure around the hind leg above the knee, does the cat...

7	Do nothing	0	0	0	0
	Swish tail / flatten ears	1	1	1	1
	Cry / hiss	2	2	2	2
	Growl	3	3	3	3
	Bite / lash out	4	4	4	4

General impression, is the cat...

8	Happy and content	0	0	0	0
	Disinterested / quiet	1	1	1	1
	Anxious / fearful	2	2	2	2
	Dull	3	3	3	3
	Depressed / grumpy	4	4	4	4
Total .../20					
Analgesic intervention recommended (please circle)		Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N