

# Acute pain assessment scale for dogs

Based on the University of Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale - Canine, Short Form

**Introduction:** This pain scale provides a practical means of assessing the quality of acute pain management, particularly post-operative pain, and aids decision making for further analgesic requirements.

**Instructions:** Circle an appropriate score from each section (1 - 6) and calculate a total score at the bottom. Analgesic intervention should not be based solely on this scale but on overall veterinary assessment; as a guide, intervention is recommended with scores of 6/24, or more (and 5/20 or more when section 3 is omitted). \*See reference for further information.

Dog's Name		ID No	
Condition		Date	

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

**Observe the dog in the kennel, is the dog...**

1	Quiet	0	0	0	0
	Crying or whimpering	1	1	1	1
	Groaning	2	2	2	2
	Screaming	3	3	3	3
2	Ignoring any wound or painful area	0	0	0	0
	Looking at wound or painful area	1	1	1	1
	Licking wound or painful area	2	2	2	2
	Rubbing wound or painful area	3	3	3	3
	Chewing wound or painful area	4	4	4	4

**Note:** In the case of spinal, pelvic or multiple limb fractures, or where assistance is required to aid walking, do not carry out section 3, score out this section and proceed to 4

**Put dog on lead and encourage out of kennel - when dog rises/walks, is the dog...**

3	Normal	0	0	0	0
	Lame	1	1	1	1
	Slow or reluctant	2	2	2	2
	Stiff	3	3	3	3
	Refusing to move	4	4	4	4

**If the dog has a wound or painful area including abdomen, cautiously apply gentle pressure 5cm round the site - does the dog...**

4	Do nothing	0	0	0	0
	Look around	1	1	1	1
	Flinch	2	2	2	2
	Growl or guard area	3	3	3	3
	Snap	4	4	4	4
	Cry	5	5	5	5

**Overall - is the dog...**

5	Happy and content or happy and bouncy	0	0	0	0
	Quiet	1	1	1	1
	Indifferent or non-responsive to surroundings	2	2	2	2
	Nervous or anxious or fearful	3	3	3	3
	Depressed or non-responsive to stimulation	4	4	4	4
6	Comfortable	0	0	0	0
	Unsettled	1	1	1	1
	Restless	2	2	2	2
	Hunched or tense	3	3	3	3
	Rigid	4	4	4	4
Total ('.../24' or if section 3 omitted '.../20')					
Analgesic intervention recommended? (please circle)		Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N