

The following are common clinical scenarios encountered in veterinary medicine with their attendant level of pain provided. The degree of pain should be taken into account when determining therapeutic approach, as outlined in the various tiered analgesic protocols; their implementation will be guided by the various analgesic modalities available along with the needs of the individual patient requiring treatment. This table is reproduced from the WSAVA Global Pain Treatise, a succinct yet comprehensive review of pain assessment, various pain modalities, and the treatment of various clinically painful scenarios in both dogs and cats. The WSAVA GPC Pain Treatise published in the *Journal of Small Animal Practice* and is available for open access at the GPC pages of www.wsava.org.

Perceived level of pain associated with various conditions

The designation of conditions into categories below is intended to serve only as a guide. Pain may vary according to the patient and the condition. Each patient should be assessed individually.

Severe-to-excrutiating

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Central nervous system infarction/tumours ■ Meningitis ■ Fracture repair where extensive soft tissue injury exists ■ Spinal surgery ■ Ear canal ablation ■ Burn injury ■ Articular or pathological fractures ■ Limb amputation ■ Necrotizing pancreatitis or cholecystitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Thrombosis/ischaemia ■ Bone cancer ■ Hypertrophic osteodystrophy ■ Aortic saddle thrombosis ■ Neuropathic pain (nerve entrapment/inflammation, acute intervertebral disc herniation) ■ Inflammation (extensive e.g. peritonitis, fascitis – especially streptococcal, cellulitis) |
|--|--|

Moderate-to-severe (varies with degree of illness or injury)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Immune-mediated arthritis ■ Panosteitis ■ Capsular pain due to organomegaly ■ Hollow organ distension ■ Traumatic diaphragmatic rupture ■ Pleuritis ■ Trauma (i.e. orthopaedic, extensive soft tissue, head) ■ Frostbite ■ Ureteral/urethral/biliary obstruction ■ Glaucoma ■ Corneal abrasion/ulceration ■ Uveitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early or resolving stages of soft tissue injuries/inflammation/disease ■ Intervertebral disc disease ■ Mesenteric, gastric, testicular or other torsions ■ Peritonitis with septic abdomen ■ Mucositis ■ Oral cancer ■ Mastitis ■ Dystocia ■ Extensive resection and reconstruction for mass removal and corrective orthopaedic surgery (osteotomies; cruciate surgery; open arthrotomies) |
|--|--|

Moderate

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Soft tissue injuries (i.e. less severe than above) ■ Urethral obstruction ■ Ovariohysterectomy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cystitis ■ Diagnostic arthroscopy and laparoscopy ■ Osteoarthritis |
|--|--|

Mild-to-moderate

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dental disease ■ Otitis ■ Superficial lacerations ■ Mild cystitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chest drains ■ Abscess lancing ■ Castration |
|--|---|

Data from Mathews, K. (2000) *Vet Clin NA, Sm Anim Pract.* 30, 729–752