



Animal Behavior and Signs

Score

Action – Tech to Record

		0
Bright, bouncy, responsive, self-grooming; normal mobility; dream sleep	No Pain	None
Appear normal; not as clear-cut as above; possible increased heart rate	Probably No Pain	None
Eat and sleep but may not dream; may limp or resist palpation of affected area plus or minus increased heart rate and respiration rate	Mild Discomfort	Reassess hourly; if worse give analgesic
Limps or guards affected area, e.g., tenses abdomen; slightly depressed; restless plus or minus trembling, increased heart rate, respiration rate; cats may still purr; dogs may wag tail	Mild Pain or Discomfort	Needs analgesic – 1. NSAID and/or Butorphanol (0.1 ml per kg 6 to 12 hourly) OR 2. Repeat morphine if wearing off from previous use; do not give Butorphanol and Morphine
Resists touch of affected area; may look or chew at area; abnormal body position; may not move for hours plus or minus trembling, appetite, increase shallow respiration rate, and heart rate; may give occasional whimper or cry plus or minus dilated pupils	Mild to Moderate Pain	1. Morphine – Dogs (0.3mg per kg) Cats (0.1 mg per kg) IM or SQ; 2. Butorphanol (0.15 ml per 5 kg 4 to 12 hourly); 3. OR, NSAID; 4. OR, NSAID plus morphine if opioid has already been given
Depressed, trembling, head down, inappetent; may cry or bite if approached, moved, or if affected area is touched; marked splinting or prayer position if abdomen is affected; plus or minus increased heart and respiration rate; doesn't sleep	Moderate Pain	1. Morphine – Dogs (0.3 to 0.5 mg per kg) 2. Butorphanol (0.2 ml per 5 kg 4 to 8 hourly); Cats (0.15 mg per kg every 3 to 6 hours; 3. NSAID; 4. Opioid plus NSAID
Same as above but may cry or whine frequently without provocation; cats may still purr; dogs may wag tail	Moderate Pain	1. Morphine – Dogs (0.5 mg per kg), Cats (0.2 mg per kg) every 3 to 6 hours; 2. OR, NSAID as appropriate; 3. OR both
As above animal is very depressed; will urinate and defecate without moving; will cry if moved, may continually whimper	Moderate to Severe	As above but higher doses of opioid
As above but more vocalizing, more depressed and unaware of surrounding; may thrash about intermittently; with traumatic or neurologic pain may scream (especially cats) if approached; usually there is an increased heart rate and increased respiratory rate with increased abdominal effort even if opioids previously given	Severe	1. High dose morphine; 2. Plus NSAID as appropriate
As above but animal is hyperesthetic, trembles involuntarily if touched close to affected area; neurologic pain or severe inflammation anywhere; this degree of pain can cause death	Severe to Excruciating	1. High dose Morphine plus NSAIDs; 2. Plus Epidural or local analgesic; 3. Anaesthetic while treating inciting cause
As above but animal is screaming or almost comatose; animal is hyperesthetic/hyperalgesic; whole body trembles and is painful where ever you touch it; this degree of pain can cause death	Excruciating	Very high doses of opioids do not relieve this pain, but give 1. Morphine – Dogs (1 mg per kg), Cats (0.2 mg per kg or to effect); 2. Plus NSAID; 3. Plus epidurals/nerve blocks; 4. OR general anesthesia to treat cause