# Canine Acute Pain Scale

## Pain Score

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<th>Pain Score</th>
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<th>Response to Palpation</th>
<th>Body Tension</th>
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</table>
| 0          | ![Dog Calm](image) | □ Comfortable when resting  
□ Happy, content  
□ Not bothering wound or surgery site  
□ Interested in or curious about surroundings | □ Nontender to palpation of wound or surgery site, or to palpation elsewhere | Minimal |
| 1          | ![Dog Restless](image) | □ Content to slightly unsettled or restless  
□ Distracted easily by surroundings | □ Reacts to palpation of wound, surgery site, or other body part by looking around, flinching, or whimpering | Mild |
| 2          | ![Dog Uncomfortable](image) | □ Looks uncomfortable when resting  
□ May whimper or cry and may lick or rub wound or surgery site when unattended  
□ Droopy ears, worried facial expression (arched eye brows, darting eyes)  
□ Reluctant to respond when beckoned  
□ Not eager to interact with people or surroundings but will look around to see what is going on | □ Flinches, whimpers, cries, or guards/pulls away | Mild to Moderate  
Reassess analgesic plan |
| 3          | ![Dog Unsettled](image) | □ Unsettled, crying, groaning, biting or chewing wound when unattended  
□ Guards or protects wound or surgery site by altering weight distribution (i.e., limping, shifting body position)  
□ May be unwilling to move all or part of body | □ May be subtle (shifting eyes or increased respiratory rate) if dog is too painful to move or is stoic  
□ May be dramatic, such as a sharp cry, growl, bite or bite threat, and/or pulling away | Moderate  
Reassess analgesic plan |
| 4          | ![Dog Painful](image) | □ Constantly groaning or screaming when unattended  
□ May bite or chew at wound, but unlikely to move  
□ Potentially unresponsive to surroundings  
□ Difficult to distract from pain | □ Cries at non-painful palpation (may be experiencing allodynia, wind-up, or fearful that pain could be made worse)  
□ May react aggressively to palpation | Moderate to Severe  
May be rigid to avoid painful movement  
Reassess analgesic plan |

## Rescore when awake

- □ Animal is sleeping, but can be aroused - Not evaluated for pain
- □ Animal can’t be aroused, check vital signs, assess therapy

## Comments

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