

# How do we know they hurt? Assessing Acute Pain in Dogs



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**1****Normal behaviors****2****Loss of normal behaviors****3****Development of new behaviors**

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## Normal Postures and Behaviors



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## WHAT DO DOGS DO WHEN THEY GET UP?

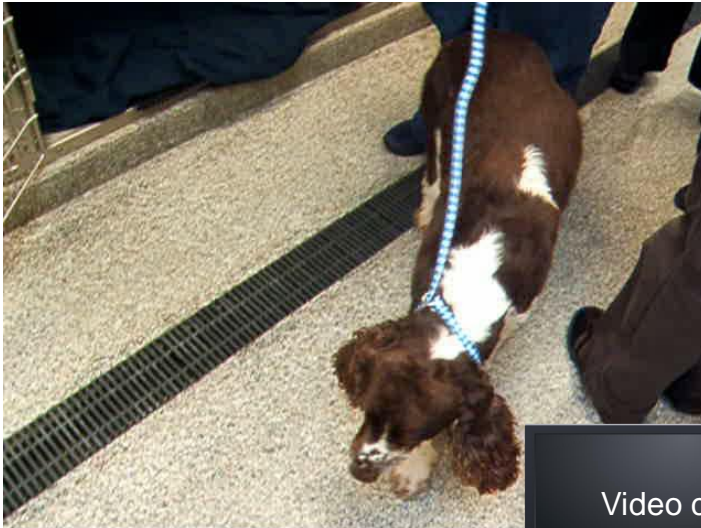


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A full body “dog shake”

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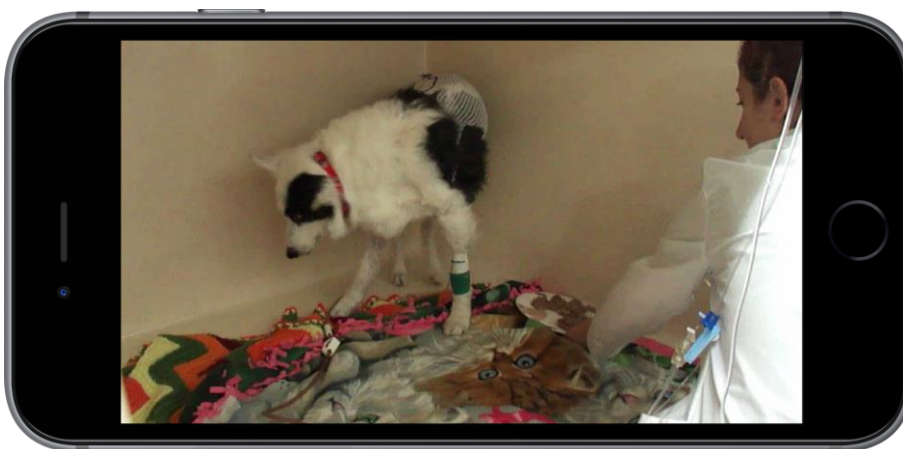


Video credit  
Dr. Alicia Karas

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## Subjectivity and Bias



The Wine Advocate Rating System

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## Bias

The Drama Queen



The Husky



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## (Mis)Labeling animals

Pain is a unique individual experience

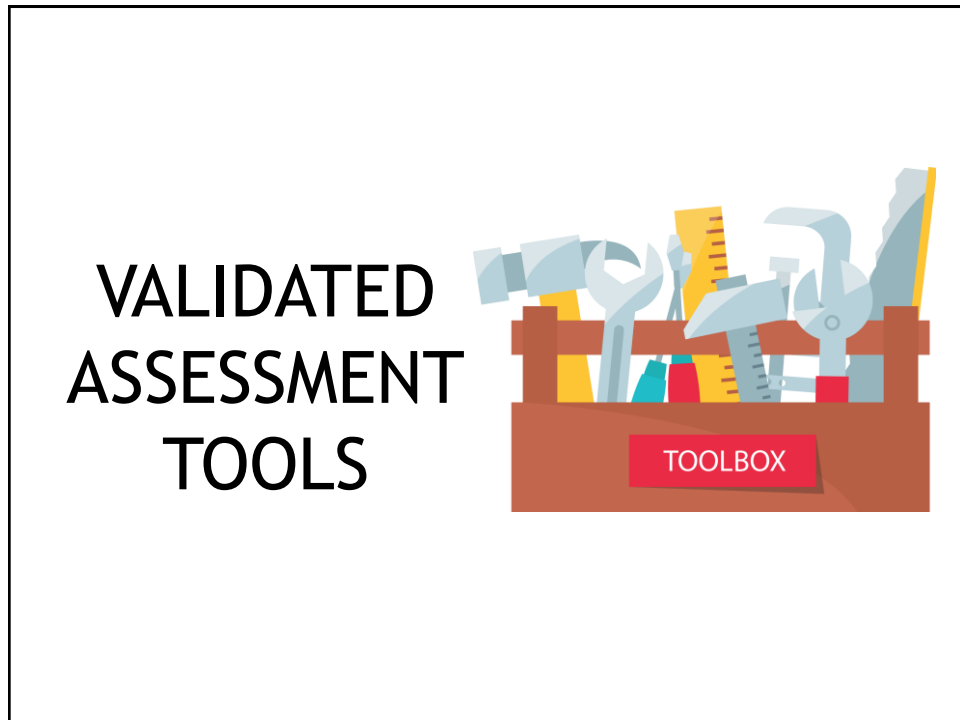
“STOIC”



“WIMPY”

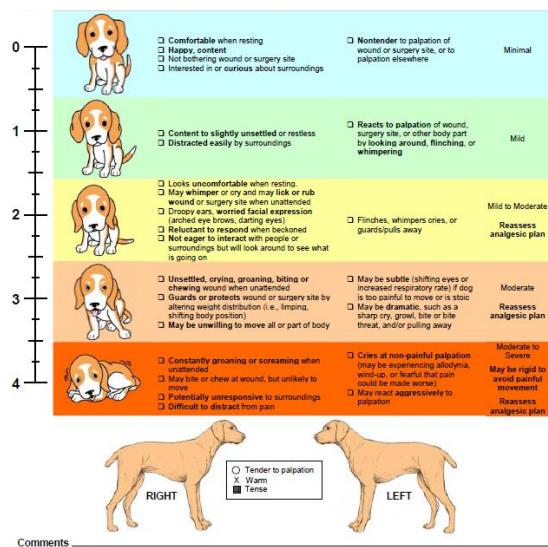


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Not currently validated – but has a lot of merit



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# NEWMETRICA

INNOVATION IN QUALITY OF LIFE MEASUREMENT

## Acute Pain Measurements for Dogs:

English, Spanish, French, German, Italian,  
Norwegian, Swedish

[www.newmetrica.com](http://www.newmetrica.com)

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)



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## Glasgow Composite Measures Pain Scale



279 words  
and  
expressions



47 words and  
expressions



### 7 behavior categories

1. Demeanor and response to people
2. Posture
3. Mobility
4. Activity
5. Response to touch
6. Attention to wound
7. Vocalization

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**Development of the short-form Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale (CMPS-SF) and derivation of an analgesic intervention score**

*J Reid<sup>\*†</sup>, AM Nolan<sup>†</sup>, JML Hughes<sup>‡</sup>, D Lascelles<sup>§</sup>, P Pawson<sup>†</sup> and EM Scott<sup>#</sup>*



Intervention  
 $\geq 6/24$  if mobility assessed

Animal Welfare 2007

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Intervention  
 $\geq 5/20$  if not ambulatory

Animal Welfare 2007

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## Pain behaviors

### SPONTANEOUS

1. Vocalization
2. Attention to wound
3. Postures

### EVOKED

1. Getting up
2. Palpation

## OBSERVATION & INTERACTION

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## Immobility

Don't move because it  
will hurt



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## Vocalization



Look at dog in Kennel  
*Is the dog:*

Quiet	0
Crying or whimpering	1
Groaning	2
Screaming	3

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## Comfort and posture



*Is the dog:*

Comfortable	0
Unsettled	1
Restless	2
<b>Hunched or tense</b>	<b>3</b>
Rigid	4

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## Postures



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**Observation  
alone is not  
enough**



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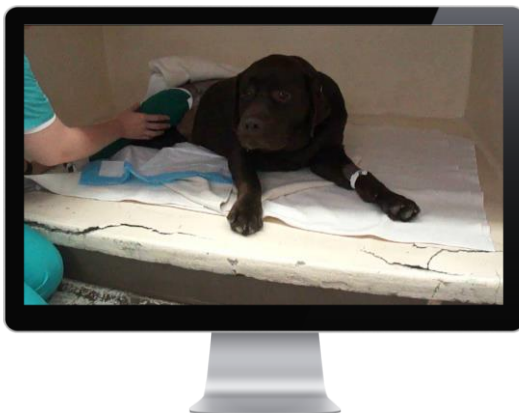
## Response to palpation



Do nothing	0
Look round	1
Flinch	2
Growl/guard	3
Snap	4
Cry	5

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## Response to palpation



Do nothing	0
Look round	1
Flinch	2
Growl/guard	3
Snap	4
Cry	5

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## Mobility

Put lead on dog and lead out of the kennel

*When the dog rises / walks is it:*

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



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**PUTTING IT ALL  
TOGETHER**



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**A. Look at dog in Kennel**  
*Is the dog*

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

In the case of spinal, pelvic or multiple limb fractures, or where assistance is required to aid locomotion do not carry out section **B** and proceed to **C**  
 Please tick if this is the case ☐ then proceed to C

**B. Put lead on dog and lead out of the kennel**  
*When the dog rises/walks is it?*

(iii)	
Normal	0
Lame	1
Slow or reluctant	2
Stiff	3
It refuses to move	4

**C. If it has a wound or painful area including abdomen, apply gentle pressure 2 inches round the site**

*Does it?*

(iv)	
Do nothing	0
Look round	1
Flinch	2
Growl or guard area	3
Snap	4
Cry	5

**D. Overall**  
*Is the dog?*

(v)		(vi)	
Happy and content or happy and bouncy	0	Comfortable	0
Quiet	1	Unsettled	1
Indifferent or non-responsive to surroundings	2	Restless	2
Nervous or anxious or fearful	3	Hunched or tense	3
Depressed or non-responsive to stimulation	4	Rigid	4

Total Score (i+ii+iii+iv+v+vi) = \_\_\_\_\_

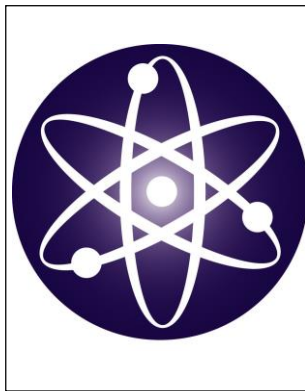
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# Veterinary Medicine

ART



SCIENCE



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This instrument should not constitute the sole method for determining when an animal needs analgesic therapy



It should be part of the overall assessment of a patient's need for pain control

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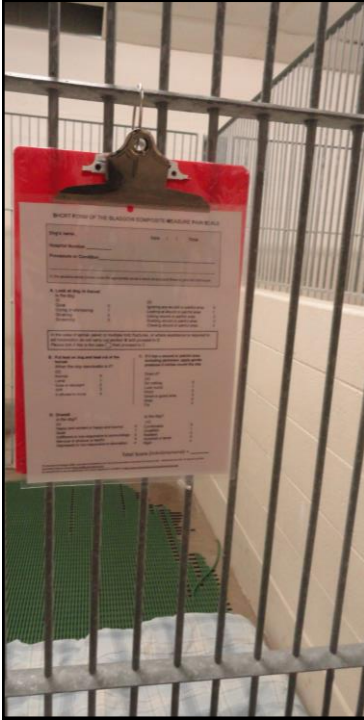


*Use in conjunction with clinical judgment*



No animal should be denied analgesic therapy on the basis of this instrument alone

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## When do you score?

After recovery from anesthesia

If pain is  $\geq$  intervention level; treat

Reassess within 45-60 minutes

If score is  $\leq$  intervention level;  
reassess in 2 hours

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## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



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