



Category 1: Physical and Emotional

MANDATORY

1.5 Appropriate pain management is provided for the level of pain occurring or expected.

- Job Level (who should be able to perform the task):
 - o Veterinary technician or assistant – identify signs of pain, understand and record pain scores, anticipate procedures that may be painful, alert veterinarians to patients that may be painful, client communication
 - o Veterinarian – assess pain in every patient, understand and record pain scores, make appropriate treatment plans to alleviate pain, direct treatment to support staff, client communication
- Special Skills Required:
 - o Understanding of pain scores
 - o Identify signs of pain occurring
 - o Able to anticipate level of pain for procedures
 - o Staff communication
 - o Client communication

Equipment and Supplies

May include but are not limited to:

- Colorado State University's Canine and Feline Acute Pain Scale
- University of Glasgow Short Form Composite Pain Score
- 2015 AAHA/AAFP Pain Management Guidelines for Dogs and Cats
- WASAVA Guidelines for Recognition, Assessment and Treatment of Pain

Variety of analgesics including but not limited to:

- Opiates
- NSAIDs
- Alpha-2 Adrenergic Agonists
- Gabapentin
- Amantadine
- Nutraceuticals

Examples and Compliance Paths

- Review Standard 1.4 to ensure pain assessment is part of every physical exam
- Pain management is instituted for acute and/or chronic pain



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- Consideration for severity and duration of pain is a must
- Anticipate procedures that may be uncomfortable so that analgesia can be provided prior to treatment or as soon as possible
- Sedation must also be considered for painful procedures
- Follow-up with clients in an appropriate amount of time to ensure pain is being relieved
- Modify treatment plan based on follow-up discussions with client

Scoring

Review medical records for and/or observation of:

- Pain assessment as part of every physical exam
- Where acute and/or chronic pain is noted, pain management (including consideration for severity and duration) is discussed and documented
- Follow-up is conducted with clients to ensure pain is being relieved and, if necessary, treatment is modified