

# Understanding Pain in Pets

**P**ain is a response to injury or illness, and it is as common in pets as it is in people. We typically consider pain to be a bad thing because it leaves those we love feeling uncomfortable and unable to participate in everyday activities. However, the sensation of pain is a protective mechanism that forces us to take it slow and allow injuries to heal without further damage.

Animals, especially, are very skilled at hiding pain, even from those who know them best. In the wild, this prevents predators from knowing they are sick or injured.

Our team of dedicated veterinarians and technicians is skilled at interpreting the physical signs of pain and approaching your pet's comfort with the highest standard of care. Effective pain management improves the recovery process from illness, surgery, injury, and chronic pain conditions by finding the right balance of medication and exercise.

## Types of pain

Acute pain occurs immediately after an injury or surgery and can be mild to severe. It typically lasts only a few weeks and goes away once the injury or surgery site has healed.

Chronic pain is caused by long-term conditions such as arthritis, that cannot be repaired; or it can be an extension of acute pain that has not resolved. It may even be debilitating and affect quality of life. Management is often an ongoing process, and patients may require long-term therapy.

## How do i know if my pet is in pain?

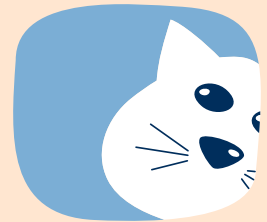
### Dogs

- ♥ Not eating
- ♥ Trouble rising
- ♥ Lack of playing
- ♥ Hiding
- ♥ Limping
- ♥ Growling or other changes in behavior



### Cats

- ♥ Not eating
- ♥ Not grooming
- ♥ Urinating inappropriately
- ♥ Hiding
- ♥ Not jumping on elevated surfaces
- ♥ Hissing or other changes in behavior



## Treatment

Never administer pain medication to your pet without first consulting with your veterinarian. It's important that your veterinarian diagnose your pet and make recommendations that are safe and effective.



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