

## **Modified Visual Analog Pain Scale Guidelines: 0 to 10 Scale (Original source unknown)**

0 = No pain

1 = Very slight discomfort, a mild inconvenience. No abnormal gait or posture. Ex. Mild rash or open sebaceous cyst

2 = Slightly more discomfort, but does not interfere with any normal activities. Patient will still initiate play

3 = Uncomfortable. Occasionally distracts the pet from normal activity. Pet may be slightly "off" or less interactive with the owner. Ex. Chronic arthritis in the carpus, mild to moderate dermatitis

4 = Mild Pain. Patient shows the owner they are in pain by decreased activity, scratching or licking at the wound or area. Ex. Laceration or abscess, mild lameness or change in gait or posture, mild arthritis

5 = Pain interfering with the pet's normal activity. The pet may be noticeably limping or obsessing over an area, but is still able to get up, eat, and drink. Ex. Moderate arthritis of the hips or elbows, torn toenails

6 = Moderate Pain. Patient is less interactive with the owner, preferring to hide or spend time alone. May snap at other pets or children if they get too close. Ex. Severe dental disease or pain during cruciate exam, severe arthritis

7 = Pet may be unable or unwilling to walk, increased respiratory and heart rate at rest, may not be interested in food and water. Patient may vocalize or snap when painful area is touched. Ex. Back pain in and IVDD dog, severe otitis

8 = Severe Pain. Patient is depressed, not eating, and has difficulty getting comfortable enough to sleep. When awake, may be panting or agitated. Ex. GI or urinary obstruction

9 = Severe/Traumatic/Surgical Level Pain. Patient is difficult to approach without aggression, excessively shy about being handled, unable to get comfortable, and may be intermittently vocal. Very reluctant to move. Ex. Pelvic or limb fractures

10 = Most severe pain imaginable. Patient is vocalizing and thrashing. Likely aggressive