






**Colorado State University
Veterinary Medical Center
Canine Simple Descriptive Pain Scale**

<u>Pain Score</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Description</u>
0		Happy, content. Minimal body tension. Comfortable when resting. Not bothered by palpation of wound or surgery site. Interested in or curious about surroundings.
1		May be content or slightly unsettled. May be slightly restless. Mild body tension may be present. Reacts to palpation of wound or surgery site by looking around, flinching, or whimpering, but is easily distracted by surroundings
2		Not comfortable when resting. Mild to moderate body tension. Reluctant to respond when beckoned. Ears may droop, facial expression may appear "worried" (arched eye brows, darting eyes). May whimper or cry and may lick or rub wound or surgery site when unattended. May not be eager to interact with people. Responds to palpation of wound or surgery site with by flinching, whimpering or crying, or guarding (pulling away). Less interested in surroundings but will look around to see what is going on.
3		Guards or protects wound or surgery site by altering weight distribution (such as limping or shifting body position). May be unwilling to move all or part of body. Moderate body tension may be present. May be unsettled, crying or groaning, or biting or chewing wound when unattended. Response to palpation may be dramatic, such as a sharp cry, growling, biting (or threatening to bite), pulling away. Response to palpation may also be subtle (shifting eyes or increased respiratory rate) if dog is too painful to move or is stoic. May have a worried facial expression.
4		Moderate to severe body tension, may be rigid to avoid movement which could contribute to 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. Potentially unresponsive to surroundings, cannot be distracted from pain. May be constantly groaning or screaming when unattended. May bite or chew at wound, but more likely to not move.