

Identifying Pain in Your Pet

The following descriptions will help you to identify pain and classify it at home. This will enable us to adjust or add medication to be sure your pet is comfortable.

Pain Level

Observations

None

No pain. Relaxed and freely moving.
Does not notice the surgical site.
Normal attention to the environment.
Interactive, playful and normal behavior.

Mild

Limps or guards affected area.
Slightly depressed, may pant or breathe hard.
Dogs may still wag tail and cats may still purr.

Moderate

Depressed, trembling, head down and loss of appetite.
May cry or bite when touched.
Abdomen tense if involved.
May assume the prayer position. Doesn't sleep.

Severe

More vocalizing, more depressed and unaware of surroundings.
May thrash about intermittently.
May scream if approached.
Increased heart rate and respiration.

We will always recommend that any patient displaying signs of moderate or severe pain be evaluated at the hospital. These patients may need to be hospitalized for more aggressive pain control.

Pain Management for Your Pet

Grace Animal Hospital is a pain free hospital. We realize that it may be impossible to completely prevent discomfort but it will always be addressed and never left untreated.

This policy continues after you take your pet home. Please use the following table to record your thoughts each day. If you have any concerns please call us at (304) 848-2420

Date		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Pain Intensity								
How bad was your pet's pain today?	Severe Moderate Mild None							
Pain Relief								
How much pain relief has the medication given your pet today?	Complete Good Moderate Slight None							
Side-Effects								
Loss of appetite								
Vomiting								
Diarrhea								
Lethargy								

We have sent the following medication home to be used for pain management.

The dose is:

Please discontinue the medication and call us if the following occurs:
