

Will my pet BE IN PAIN?

Anything that is painful for you will likely also be painful for your pet.

While we are different species, we all process and feel pain similarly. As advances in modern medicine have increased our lifespan, our animal family members are also reaping the benefits of advances in modern veterinary medicine. More of our beloved pets are undergoing elective surgical procedures to treat a variety of disease processes, from a torn cruciate ligament to extractions of infected teeth.

Pain management has become an important specialty area in veterinary medicine just as it has in human medicine. You want the best for your family members and that includes top-of-the-line treatments for pain management.

Because their pain is our pain

It was once thought that animals did not experience pain in the same way people do. But research supports that

if a procedure is thought to be painful to us, it will also be painful to our fuzzy friends as well, even though they may go to great lengths to hide it from us. So proper pain management must be offered to all patients. In addition to pain medications (analgesics), many clinics are now offering complementary treatments like physical rehabilitation, acupuncture and laser therapy to treat pet pain.

What you can do

1. Ask the veterinary team about the customized steps they will take to manage your pet's pain.
2. Talk to your veterinary team about common signs of osteoarthritis pain in senior pets, such as reluctance to go up or down stairs, being slow to rise after sleeping and loss of interest in playing, running or jumping.
3. Request a pain consultation for your pet. Your veterinarian offers tailored pain management protocols for patients at risk for chronic pain such as osteoarthritis.
4. Ask about rehabilitation options and other steps to manage any chronic pain your pet experiences.

Pain management is an important aspect of any surgical or medical procedure.

Together with your veterinary team, you can make your pets as comfortable as possible in the postoperative period or into their senior years.

