## **BEAP** Pain Scale for Cats



|                                       | Many signs of chronic pai    | n are | non-specific. Make sure to see your vet to ru  | ile ou            | t other disease as a cause of these signs.   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--|-------------------|--|
|                                       |                              |       | <b>B:</b> Breathing normally   |                   | A: Eating and drinking normally  |
| 0                                     |                              |       | E: Eyes bright and alert   |                   | <b>A:</b> Happy and content; interested in surroundings; playful behavior; seeks attention   |
| No<br>Pain                            |                              |       | A: Walks normally and remains agile  |                   | P: Comfortable at rest and during play;<br>perky ears; upright, alert tail; whiskers relaxed   |
|                                       |                              |       | A: Engages in play and all normal activities   |                   | P: Enjoys being touched, petted and brushed; no body tension present   |
| 1-2                                   |                              |       | <b>B:</b> Breathing normally   |                   | A: Eating and drinking normally  |
| Mild                                  | 4.5                          |       | E: Eyes bright and alert   |                   | <b>A:</b> Will often still remain happy and interested in surroundings   |
| Pain                                  |                              |       | A: Slightly more hesitant to jump onto very high places such as counter tops but still able to easily jump onto couch or bed                 | $\overline{\Box}$ | <b>P:</b> Tail may be down just a little more; ears up; whiskers generally appear relaxed  |
| vet during<br>your next<br>ppointment |                              |       | A: May show only subtle change in normal activity and behaviors  |                   | P: Enjoys being touched, petted and brushed; no body tension present   |
| 2.4                                   |                              |       | <b>B:</b> Breathing generally normal but may be at slightly increased rate   |                   | <b>A:</b> Appetite more finicky, such as wanting only treats or "junk" food such as canned food  |
| 3-4                                   |                              |       | <b>E:</b> Eyes may be slightly more dull in appearance; eyes may be held partially closed  |                   | A: Generally more subdued and quiet  |
| Noderate<br>Pain                      |                              |       | <b>A:</b> Hesitant to jump to higher places; may also not jump onto lower places, such as couch or bed                                       | П                 | <b>P:</b> Difficulty posturing to eliminate or cover waste; subtle changes in posture; tail held low and ears more flattened, whiskers slightly down |
| See your vet<br>Seess pain            |                              |       | <b>A:</b> Not eager to interact but still in tune with surroundings; changes in normal routine; may hide; decreased grooming                 |                   | P: Does not mind touch except on painful area; turns head to look where touched; mild body tension   |
|                                       |                              |       | <b>B:</b> Breathing rate and effort may be increased   |                   | A: Will frequently lose appetite   |
| 5-6 Noderate                          |                              |       | E: Dull eyes; eyes may remain partially or fully closed; pupils may be more dilated  | П                 | <b>A:</b> Very subdued and quiet; increased facial tension; decreased enjoyment of being brushed   |
| o Severe                              |                              |       | <b>A:</b> Moves more slowly or gingerly; no longer jumps up onto couch or bed; difficulty on stairs  | $\overline{}$     | <b>P:</b> "Meatloaf" position; whiskers move forward   |
| Pain  ONCERNING! See your vet         |                              |       | A: Withdraws from family and other pets; seeks solitude; decreased grooming; may excessively lick painful areas may have "assidents" outside |                   | slightly from face; rough or fluffed up fur; difficulty posturing to eliminate or cover waste fully  P: Pulls away painful area or tries to escape;  |
|                                       |                              |       | lick painful area; may have "accidents" outside the litter box   | $\sqsubseteq$     | moderate body tension when being touched   |
| 7-8                                   |                              |       | <b>B:</b> Faster breathing rate with more noticeable effort  | $\sqsubseteq$     | A: Loss of appetite; may not want to drink  A: Reclusive; agitated; potentially aggressive;  |
| Severe                                |                              |       | <b>E:</b> Dull eyes; generally remain partially or fully closed; may have distressed look; pupils dilated                                    | Ш                 | tail flicking; may be growling or hissing  P: Tail held close, ears flattened or pinned back,  |
| Pain                                  |                              |       | A: Unlikely to move if left alone  A: Avoids all interaction; will "go off" and hide,  |                   | whiskers move forward and tend to bunch;  "grimace face"; flattened posture  |
| VERY<br>ONCERNING!<br>See your vet    |                              |       | often in new places; stops grooming; frequently licks or chews at painful area, sometimes to the point of fur loss                           |                   | P: Significant body tension when painful area touched; may growl or hiss in pain; guards painful area by pulling away or trying to escape            |
|                                       |                              |       | <b>B:</b> Increased breathing rate and effort; may have  |                   | A: No interest in food or water  |
| 9-10<br>Worst                         |                              |       | periods of open-mouthed breathing or panting  E: Dull, closed eyes; eyes may also widen with a   |                   | <b>A:</b> Extremely depressed or minimally responsive ("flat out"); quiet, growling or hissing; distressed   |
| Pain<br>Possible                      |                              |       | look of panic; pupils dilated  A: Unable or unwilling to walk  |                   | <b>P:</b> Lying on side; tail may appear "fluffed"   |
| MERGENCY!<br>See your vet             |                              |       | <b>A:</b> Difficulty in being distracted from pain, even with gentle touch or soothing voice; may bite or                                    |                   | P: Rigid body tension when touched; will not tolerate touch of painful area; hissing when  |
|                                       |                              |       | chew painful area; may eliminate where lying   |                   | other areas that are not painful are touched   |
|                                       | Specific behaviors or physic | cal c | hanges I see:  |                   |  |
|                                       |                              |       |  |                   |  |
|                                       | Eyes:<br>Ambulation:         |       |  |                   |  |
|                                       |                              |       |  |                   |  |
| [:.]                                  | Appetite:<br>Attitude:       |       |  |                   |  |
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| Shea Cox                              | Palpation:                   |       |  |                   |  |

