

FELINE GRIMACE SCALE[®] FACT SHEET

Evangelista et al. Facial expressions of pain in cats: the development and validation of a Feline Grimace Scale. Sci Rep 9, 19128 (2019)



WHY?

- Pain-induced behavioral changes are unique in cats and can be subtle

WHO?

- The FGS can be used by:
 - Veterinarians
 - Veterinary nurses
 - Veterinary students
 - Cat owners

WHAT?

- The Feline Grimace Scale[®] (FGS) is a valid and reliable tool used for acute pain assessment based on changes in facial expressions
- Quick and easy-to-use
- Differentiates painful and non-painful cats and response to analgesics

WHEN?

- The FGS is used for acute pain assessment in cats with medical, surgical or oral pain, etc.
- Pain assessment should be performed in all cats as often as needed on a case-by-case basis

HOW?

There are 5 action units (AU):

- Ear position
- Orbital tightening
- Muzzle tension
- Whiskers position
- Head position

Each AU is scored:

- 0 (absent)
- 1 (moderately present)
- 2 (present)

- The final score is the sum of all scores (maximum of 10)
- Analgesic treatment is suggested when the final score is $\geq 4/10$ or $0.4/1.0$

0 = AU is absent



- Ears facing forward
- Eyes opened
- Muzzle relaxed (round shape)
- Whiskers loose and curved
- Head above the shoulder line

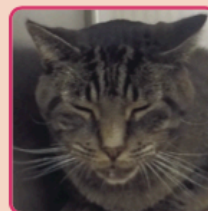
1 = AU is moderately present*



- Ears slightly pulled apart
- Eyes partially opened
- Muzzle mildly tense
- Whiskers slightly curved or straight
- Head aligned with the shoulder line

*The score of 1 can be also given when there is uncertainty over the presence or absence of the AU

2 = AU is markedly present



- Ears flattened and rotated outwards
- Squinted eyes
- Muzzle tense (elliptical shape)
- Whiskers straight and moving forward
- Head below the shoulder line or tilted down (chin towards the chest)

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Feline Grimace Scale[®]
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Access the website
www.felinegrimacescale.com



Acknowledgement

