



# Pain Management

## How to Know if Your Dog is in Pain

Dogs feel pain and discomfort for many of the same reasons as humans. Following their surgical procedure they may experience some pain and discomfort requiring treatment. In most cases your dog will exhibit subtle changes in behavior indicating pain. It is important to pay attention to what is abnormal for your pet. The sooner their pain is diagnosed the sooner healing can resume.

## Symptoms of Pain

### Vocalizing

- whines
- howls
- whimpers
- grunts
- groans
- yelps

### Grooming

- licks self
- licks items
- bites
- scratches
- dull coat

### Activity Level

- restless
- reluctant to move
- trembles
- scratches
- seeks more affection than usual

### Daily Habits

- decreased appetite
- withdrawn
- accidents in house
- sleeping more
- panting excessively
- drooling
- licking lips
- muscle twitching

### Self Protection

- protects a body part
- non-weight bearing
- limping
- hides
- resist being picked up
- moves/pulls away from you

### Aggression

- acts out of character
- growls
- bites
- pins ears back
- normally aggressive dog may act calm and docile

## Pain Medication Instruction

Follow the directions on the medication label and in your discharge instructions. Monitor your pet for possible side effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, dark tarry stool, or loss of appetite. If any of these symptoms occur contact us for further instructions. Do not alter the dosage or frequency, or introduce additional medications unless instructed by your veterinarian. Please keep medications secure and stored away from pets and children.