

BEAP Pain Scale for Dogs

Many signs of chronic pain are non-specific. Please see your family vet to rule out other possible causes of these symptoms.

 BluePearl
Pet Hospice

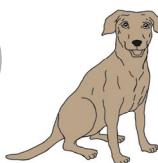
0
No pain



- B:** Breathes normally
- E:** Eyes bright and alert
- A:** Walks normally on all four legs; no lameness present
- A:** Engages in play and all normal activities

- A:** Eats and drinks as normal
- A:** Happy; interested in surroundings and playing; seeks attention
- P:** Comfortable at rest and during play; perky ears and wagging tail
- P:** Enjoys being touched and petted; no body tension present

1-2
Mild pain



Speak to your vet
during your next visit.

- B:** Breathes normally
- E:** Eyes bright and alert
- A:** Walks normally; may exhibit very subtle lameness when walking
- A:** May be very slightly slower to lie down or rise

- A:** Eats and drinks as normal
- A:** Generally remains happy and interested in surroundings
- P:** Tail may be down more often; ears up; whiskers generally relaxed
- P:** Enjoys being touched, petted and brushed; no body tension present

3-4
Moderate pain



See your vet
to assess pain.

- B:** May pant intermittently
- E:** Eyes slightly duller in appearance; can have a slightly furrowed brow
- A:** Noticeably slower to lie down or rise; may exhibit lameness when walking
- A:** May be slightly unsettled and more restless; difficulty getting comfortable; shifting weight

- A:** Appetite more finicky, such as wanting only treats or "people" food
- A:** Subdued; engages less or does not initiate play
- P:** Difficulty squatting or lifting leg to urinate; subtle changes in posture; tail more tucked and ears more flattened
- P:** Does not mind touch except on painful area; turns head to look where touched; mild body tension

5-6
Moderate to
severe pain



CONCERNING.
See your vet.

- B:** Pants often, possibly with labored breathing
- E:** Dull eyes; worried look
- A:** Very slow to rise and lie down; hesitation with movement; difficulty on stairs; reluctant to come when called; more obvious lameness
- A:** Not eager to interact but may be in tune with surroundings; obvious lameness when walking; may lick painful area

- A:** Frequently loses appetite
- A:** Anxious or restless; unable to settle or sleep well
- P:** Abnormal weight distribution when standing; difficulty posturing to eliminate; arched back, tucked belly, head hanging low; tucked tail; frequently shifting positions; ears more flattened
- P:** Guards painful area when touched; moderate body tension when being touched

7-8
Severe pain



VERY CONCERNING.
See your vet.

- B:** Faster breathing rate with more noticeable effort; frequent panting episodes
- E:** Dull eyes, may also have distressed look
- A:** Obvious difficulty rising or lying down; will not bear weight on affected leg; avoids stairs; obvious lameness
- A:** Avoids all interaction; will "go off" and hide, often in new places; stops grooming; frequently licks or chews at painful area, sometimes to the point of fur loss

- A:** Loss of appetite; may not want to drink
- A:** Agitated, fearful, worried, reclusive; potentially aggressive
- P:** Tail tucked, ears flattened or pinned back; abnormal posture when standing; more hesitant to move or stand
- P:** Significant body tension when painful area touched; may vocalize in pain; guards painful area by pulling away or changing position

9-10
Worst pain
possible



EMERGENCY.
See your vet.

- B:** Panting; increased breathing rate and effort
- E:** Dull eyes; may have panicked look
- A:** May refuse to get up; may not be able to (or willing to) take more than a few steps; will not bear weight on painful limb
- A:** Difficulty distracting from pain, even with gentle touch or soothing voice

- A:** No interest in food or water
- A:** Extremely depressed or minimally responsive ("flat out"); may vocalize in pain; in distress at rest
- P:** Prefers lying position or being on side; flat or pinned ears; may prefer to be very tucked or stretched out
- P:** Severe body tension when touched; will not tolerate touch of painful area; becomes fearful when non-painful areas are touched

Specific behaviors or physical changes I see:

Breathing: _____

Appetite: _____

Eyes: _____

Attitude: _____

Ambulation: _____

Posture: _____

Activity: _____

Palpation: _____