Facial expressions of pain in cats: the development and validation of a Feline Grimace Scale
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TRAINING MANUAL

FELINE GRIMACE SCALE

Instructions for using the scale

Rate each action unit from 0 to 2:

0 = action unit is absent
1 = moderate appearance of the action unit, or uncertainty over its presence or absence
2 = obvious appearance of the action unit

If the action unit is not visible, please mark the option “not possible to score”
**FELINE GRIMACE SCALE**

**Ear position**
- 0 = absent
- 1 = moderately present
- 2 = markedly present

- Ears facing forward
- Ears slightly pulled apart
- Ears rotated outwards

**Orbital tightening**
- 0 = absent
- 1 = moderately present
- 2 = markedly present

- Eyes opened
- Partially closed eyes
- Squinted eyes
FELINE GRIMACE SCALE

**Muzzle tension**

**0 = absent**
- Relaxed (round shape)

**1 = moderately present**
- Mild tension

**2 = markedly present**
- Tense (elliptical shape)

**Whiskers change**

**0 = absent**
- Loose (relaxed) and curved

**1 = moderately present**
- Slightly curved or straight (closer together)

**2 = markedly present**
- Straight and moving forward (rostrally, away from the face)
Head position

0 = absent

Head above the shoulder line

1 = moderately present

Head aligned with the shoulder line

2 = markedly present

Head below the shoulder line or tilted down (chin toward the chest)