Colorado State University
Veterinary Medical Center
Canine Acute Pain Scale

Date ____________________
Time ____________________

Rescore when awake
☐ Animal is sleeping, but can be aroused - Not evaluated for pain
☐ Animal can’t be aroused, check vital signs, assess therapy

Pain Score

Example

0

Comfortable when resting
Happy, content
Not bothering wound or surgery site
Interested in or curious about surroundings

Example

1

Content to slightly unsettled or restless
Distracted easily by surroundings

Example

2

Looks uncomfortable when resting
May whimper or cry and may lick or rub wound or surgery site when unattended
Droopy ears, worried facial expression (arched eye brows, darting eyes)
Reluctant to respond when beckoned
Not eager to interact with people or surroundings but will look around to see what is going on

Example

3

Unsettled, crying, groaning, biting or chewing wound when unattended
Guards or protects wound or surgery site by altering weight distribution (i.e., limping, shifting body position)
May be unwilling to move all or part of body

Example

4

Constantly groaning or screaming when unattended
May bite or chew at wound, but unlikely to move
Potentially unresponsive to surroundings
Difficult to distract from pain

Comments ____________________

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