

How to tell if your dog is in pain

You are in the best position to look for subtle changes in behavior that indicate your pet may be in pain. If your dog shows one or more of these behaviors, he/she may be hurting. By completing this assessment, you are helping us to identify possible painful conditions.

Please check all that apply:

Vocalization:

- Whining
- Howling
- Whimpering
- Yelping
- Groaning
- Grunting

Daily habits:

- Decreased appetite
- Withdraws from social interaction
- Changes in sleeping (less or more)
- Changes in drinking habits
- Lapses in houstraining or struggling to get into position
- Seeks more affection than usual

Self-mutilation:

- Licking one or more areas obsessively of his/her body
- Biting at one or more areas of his/her body
- Scratching a particular part of his/her body

Activity level:

- Restless, pacing
- Repeatedly gets up and lies down; can't seem to get comfortable
- Difficulty lying down or getting up
- Trembling, circling, or lying very still
- Moves stiffly or slowly after exercise or sleeping/resting
- Less energy or activity
- Reluctant to move
- Less playful or willing to exercise
- Less eager or able to jump on furniture or into car
- Difficulty walking or running, particularly on wood or tile floors or stairs

Facial expression:

- Grimaces, vacant stare
- Glazed, wide-eyed, or looks sleepy
- Enlarged pupils
- Flattened ears
- Pants excessively at rest

Self-protection:

- Protects a body part
- Doesn't put weight on a leg
- Limp
- Doesn't want to be held or picked up

Aggression:

Especially a previously friendly dog

- Acts out of character
- Growls
- Bites
- Pins ears back
- A normally aggressive dog may act quiet, docile

Posture:

- Hunched, with hindquarters raised and front end down on the ground
- Lays on his or her side

Please list any other changes that are not listed above:

Name of pet: _____ Date: _____ Your signature: _____

You are taking the best care of your best friend: Your veterinary practice is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association. Unlike human hospitals, veterinary practices are not required to be accredited. Your veterinary team volunteered to be evaluated on about 900 standards of veterinary excellence in order to become accredited. AAHA-accredited practices are recognized among the finest in the profession and are consistently at the forefront of advanced veterinary medicine.

AAHA's Standards of Accreditation are continuously reviewed and updated to keep our accredited practices on the cutting edge of veterinary excellence. Our standards address patient care and pain management, surgery, pharmacy, laboratory, exam facilities, medical records, cleanliness, emergency services, dental care, diagnostic imaging, anesthesiology, and continuing education. To maintain accredited status, hospitals undergo comprehensive onsite evaluations every three years. Learn more about our standards and how they contribute to the health of your pet at bit.ly/XNnomU.

