

Appendix 2: Internally modified Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) pain score criteria

Score	Interpretation	Description
0	No pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Displaying normal behavior• Running, playing, eating, jumping, walking normally• Affectionate response to caregiver• Normal heart rate
1	Maybe mild discomfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appears to be normal, but condition is not as clear cut as above• Heart rate may be normal or slightly increased due to excitement
2	Mild discomfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May have difficulty jumping or rising, or resist palpation of the abdomen, but otherwise shows no other signs of discomfort• Not depressed• Respiratory and/or heart rate may be increased• Wags tail during interaction with caregiver
3	Mild pain or discomfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guards abdomen (may be slightly tucked up)• Slightly depressed• Cannot get comfortable or may tremble or shake
4	Mild to moderate pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Painful abdomen, or pain when stretching legs• Looks, licks, or chews at the painful area• Sits or lies in the abnormal position and not look relaxed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trembles or shakes • Respiratory rate may be increased or shallow • Whimpers • Slow to rise or unable to jump • Tail hangs down • Somewhat depressed in response to caregiver
5	Moderate pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depressed and reluctant to move • May bite or attempt to bite when the caregiver approaches the painful area • Trembles or shakes with the head down • May vocalize • Painful abdomen • Ears may be pulled back • Lies down but doesn't really sleep
6	Increased moderate pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocalizes or whines frequently without provocation and when attempting to move • Heart rate and respiratory rate may be increased. May take deeper breaths • Pupils may be dilated
7	Moderate to severe pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes signs from 5 and 6 • Very depressed and not concerned with its surroundings but usually responds to direct voice

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urinates and defecates without attempting to move • May cry out spontaneously or continually whimper. <p>Occasionally, an animal at level 7 does not vocalize.</p>
8	Severe pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs as for level 7 • Vocalizing may be more of a feature, or the patient is so consumed with pain that it does not notice another presence and just lies there • May thrash around in the cage intermittently
9	Severe to excruciating pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As in level 8, but patient in hyperesthetic • When any part of the body in proximity to the abdomen is touched, the patient trembles involuntarily due to severe inflammatory pain
10	Almost comatose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As in level 9, but patient emits piercing scream or is nearly comatose • Hyperesthetic/hyperalgesic • The whole body is trembling, and pain is elicited wherever the patient is touched