

★ Understanding Pain in Dogs

Dogs experience pain from many causes, including injuries, surgery, arthritis, dental disease, and chronic conditions. Because dogs cannot tell us when they are hurting, recognizing and managing pain is an important part of veterinary care.



Signs of Pain in Dogs

Pain in dogs may be subtle. Common signs include:

- Decreased activity or reluctance to move
- Limping or stiffness
- Difficulty standing, lying down, or climbing stairs
- Whimpering, whining, or unusual vocalization
- Changes in appetite or sleep patterns
- Excessive licking or chewing at a body part
- Aggression or withdrawal
- Restlessness or inability to get comfortable

Types of Pain



- **Acute Pain:** Sudden and often short-term, caused by injury, surgery, or trauma.
- **Chronic Pain:** Long-lasting pain, commonly due to arthritis, back problems, or ongoing disease.
- **Neuropathic Pain:** Pain from nerve injury or dysfunction.

Pain Management Approaches

Effective pain management often requires a **multimodal approach**, combining several methods for best results:

- Medications 
 - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
 - Opioids (for moderate to severe pain, under strict supervision)
 - Adjunctive drugs (e.g., gabapentin, amantadine for nerve pain)

- *Nutritional Supplements*



- *Omega-3 fatty acids*
- *Glucosamine and chondroitin for joint health*

- ***Therapies***★

- *Physical therapy and rehabilitation*
- *Laser therapy*
- *Acupuncture*
- *Hydrotherapy*

- *Weight Management*



- *Reducing excess weight decreases stress on joints and improves mobility.*

- *Environmental Adjustments*

- *Soft bedding, ramps, non-slip flooring, and easier access to food, water, and outdoor areas.*

The Importance of Veterinary Care



Never give dogs over-the-counter pain relievers meant for humans — many are toxic to pets (such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and naproxen). Safe and effective pain management requires veterinary supervision.

Monitoring Your Dog

- *Keep track of changes in mobility, behavior, and comfort level. Report concerns promptly to your veterinarian.*
- *Regular rechecks help ensure pain management strategies remain effective and safe.*

Our Commitment



*At **Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic**, we believe no pet should suffer in silence. Our team is dedicated to providing compassionate, individualized pain management to improve your dog's comfort and quality of life.*

☎ *Contact us to schedule a consultation and learn about safe, effective options for managing your dog's pain.*