

# Pain scales used for assessment of acute pain in cats

## Feline Grimace Scale (FGS)

The FGS is an easy, quick and simple tool for use in cats with any type of acute pain based on changes in facial expression. The FGS was also shown to be reliable in cats undergoing dental extractions and when used by veterinarians, veterinary students and technicians, and cat owners. The FGS consists of five action units (AU): ear position, orbital tightening; muzzle tension; whisker position and head position. Each AU is individually scored from 0 to 2, where: 0 = AU is absent; 1 = AU is moderately present or there is uncertainty over its presence; 2 = AU is markedly present. The maximum score of the FGS is 10 and the cut-off score for administration of rescue analgesia is  $\geq 4/10$ . The website [www.felinegrimacescale.com](http://www.felinegrimacescale.com) is available in 9 languages (English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Simplified Chinese). It contains information about the FGS, downloadable materials (e.g. fact sheet, training manual) and offers the opportunity for pain evaluators to practice their skills using the scale. In the clinic, the fact sheet and/or training manual can be printed and placed on the walls in areas where cats are hospitalized to facilitate its use.

## UNESP-Botucatu cat pain scale (UCAPS)

The UCAPS is a practical tool that has undergone robust validation since its previous versions and that can be used in cats with any type of acute pain. The UCAPS consists of four items related to the cat's body posture; activity; attitude and reaction to touch or palpation of a painful site. Each item is scored from 0 to 3, where "0" indicates no change in behavior or normal behavior and higher values indicate marked behavioral changes. The maximum score of the UCAPS is 12 and the cut-off score for administration of rescue analgesia is  $\geq 4/12$ . The UCAPS has been validated in eight languages (Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish and Portuguese). The website [www.animalpain.com.br](http://www.animalpain.com.br) contains information about the UCAPS, downloadable materials (e.g. UCAPS) and offers the opportunity for pain evaluators to practice their skills using the scale.

## Glasgow composite measure pain scale-Feline (CMPS-Feline)

The CMPS-Feline is the most recent version of the Glasgow pain scales and it can be used in cats with any type of acute pain. It consists of 7 items where each item has a different range of possible scores. The maximum score of the CMPS-Feline is 20 and the cut-off score for administration of rescue analgesia is  $\geq 5/20$ . The CMPS is available in English and Spanish. The website [www.newmetrica.com/acute-pain-measurement/](http://www.newmetrica.com/acute-pain-measurement/) contains information about the CMPS-Feline where the CMPS-Feline can be downloaded.

## Colorado State University Feline Acute Pain Scale

The Colorado State University Feline Acute Pain Scale has only undergone reliability testing. Validity is yet to be demonstrated. Other validated tools should be preferred until further information is available.

## Relevant references

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