

WSAVA Certificate in Pain Management

Vision

Veterinary professionals (i.e., veterinarians and nurses/veterinary technicians) across the globe understand the importance of adequate pain management for small animal health and welfare, and are empowered to:

- Frequently assess pain in small animals with knowledge of pain-related behaviors and validated pain scales
- Prevent pain and other negative emotions such as fear, discomfort, nausea and anxiety
- Treat pain using drug and non-drug therapies in which the analgesic plan is developed on a case-by-case basis and adapted to their own reality

Goals

- Promote pain management as a discipline globally so that pain in small animals is more frequently prevented, recognized, assessed and treated
- Present the concepts, principles and foundations of pain management to a large international audience
- Provide veterinarians and technicians/nurses with an international certification on small animal pain management recognized by WSAVA and accredited by international bodies

Register for free

Presented by:



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Overview of educational program

The WSAVA Certificate in Pain Management includes pre-recorded lectures in addition to reading materials, and quizzes. The educational content is primarily based on the recently published '[2022 WSAVA guidelines for the recognition, assessment and treatment of pain](#)', and on additional topics not covered by that document, but considered to be important and relevant for professionals working with companion animal health and welfare globally. The Certificate is available in multiple languages and the entire educational content is available at no cost following registration.

The WSAVA Certificate in Pain Management is divided into three Modules.

Veterinarians are required to complete and pass Modules I, II and III.

Nurses/Veterinary technicians are required to complete and pass Modules I and II.

Module I - Understanding and assessing pain

Total of 8h (6h divided in 12 lectures + 2h of mandatory reading).

Animal welfare and ethics in pain management. Pain pathophysiology and the role of emotions on pain perception. Clinical assessment of acute and chronic pain in dogs and cats. Tending topics and how they relate to pain management, including: Human-Animal Bond; Client Communication; Stakeholders; and Sustainability.

Module I has been RACE approved for 8 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions that recognize RACE approval.

Module II – Preventing and treating pain

Total of 16h (12h divided in 24 lectures + 4h of mandatory reading)

Principles of pain management. General approach to the treatment of pain. Specific lectures about pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies (e.g., opioids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, alpha-2 adrenoceptor agonists, local anesthetics, adjuvant analgesics, monoclonal antibodies, acupuncture, cold therapy, physical therapies, nursing and supportive treatments, nutrition, etc.). Lectures focused on the behavioral and environmental needs of cats and dogs in pain are also included. Module II will be submitted for RACE application.

Module III – Pain management in practice

Total of 17h (13h divided in 32 lectures + 4h of mandatory reading)

This module combines all information from Modules I and II to guide veterinarians to put the gained knowledge into practice while considering the challenges they might face such as limited access to analgesic drugs. For example, tiered analgesic protocols are presented for the management of numerous painful conditions; from state-of-the-art protocols to those with limited analgesic options. Module III is divided in parts A and B. Module III will be submitted for RACE application

Part A – Patients and Diseases

Total of 8h (6h divided in 12 lectures + 2h of mandatory reading)

Specific painful conditions or groups of patients (e.g., musculoskeletal pain, neuropathic pain, geriatric patients, pediatric patients)

Part B – Clinical Cases

Total of 9h (7h divided in 20 lectures + 2h of mandatory reading)

Clinical management of some of the most common painful conditions in dogs and cats, as well as some exotic animals (acute and chronic pain cases)

Eligibility

Anyone working with animals can register for the Certificate and access the entire educational content. However, only veterinarians and veterinary nurses/technicians are eligible to the actual Certificate and recognition of continuing education credits. Students of veterinary medicine and veterinary technician/nurse are eligible to request the Certificate if they graduate within 2 years from the date of completion of Module III.

Lecture format

Each lecture is divided into five steps. The student needs to complete each step before moving to the next one:

1. **Before you start:** Overview of the lecture content, learning objectives and speaker information.
2. **How much do you know:** Quiz questions to access your previous knowledge on the topic. Note that the scores from this quiz will not be considered.
3. **Reading:** Contains '*Mandatory reading*' and '*Suggested reading and additional resources*'. Available as links to open-access documents in multiple languages. Most of the mandatory reading is from the [2022 WSAVA Global Pain Management Guidelines](#). Choose the Guidelines in your preferred language and read the required chapter for that lecture. Not all lectures have reading resources.
4. **Lecture recording:** 20 to 30-minute lectures.
5. **Quiz:** Includes four multiple-choice questions. Students need a minimum score of 3/4 to move to the following lecture. After three unsuccessful attempts at the quiz, the student will need to re-watch the lecture recording.

Program structure

The individual must complete all steps of all lectures to complete a Module. A proof of completion will be issued for each Module for any student that completes it. The WSAVA Certificate in Pain Management will be issued for veterinarians and nurses/veterinary technicians after completion of all required Modules and payment of a fee. In that case, a printed version of the **WSAVA Certificate in Pain Management for Veterinarians** or the **WSAVA Certificate in Pain Management for Veterinary Nurses/Technicians** and recognition of continuing education credits will be provided and sent by mail.

Duration of the Certificate

Each Module should be completed within 6 months. If the student does not complete a Module within this allocated period, that Module will need to be restarted from its first lecture. The interval between each Module should be no longer than 6 months (from the date of completion of a Module to the start of the next one). Therefore, a student using the maximum allocated time for and between each Module could take as much as 2.5 years to complete the Certificate. There is no minimum amount of time to complete each Module or between them.

Fee for issuing the Certificate

Based on the classification of countries by [The World Bank](#).

- Low income and lower middle income: USD \$100 (veterinarians) or USD \$50 (veterinary technicians/nurses)
- Upper middle income: USD \$200 (veterinarians) or USD \$100 (veterinary technicians/nurses)
- High income: USD \$400 (veterinarians) or USD \$200 (veterinary technicians/nurses)

Organizing committee

Scientific committee: Beatriz Monteiro, Tammy Grubb, Conny Mosley, Jo Murrell, Paulo Steagall

Program director: Beatriz Monteiro