Date ______________________

Time ______________________

Colorado State University
Veterinary Medical Center
Canine Acute Pain Scale

Rescore when awake
- Animal is sleeping, but can be aroused - Not evaluated for pain
- Animal can’t be aroused, check vital signs, assess therapy

Pain Score | Example | Psychological & Behavioral | Response to Palpation | Body Tension
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
0 | Comfortable when resting
   Happy, content
   Not bothering wound or surgery site
   Interested in or curious about surroundings | Nontender to palpation of wound or surgery site, or to palpation elsewhere | Minimal

1 | Content to slightly unsettled or restless
   Distracted easily by surroundings | Reacts to palpation of wound, surgery site, or other body part by looking around, flinching, or whimpering | Mild

2 | Looks uncomfortable when resting
   May whimper or cry and may lick or rub wound or surgery site when unattended
   Droopy ears, worried facial expression (arched eye brows, darting eyes)
   Reluctant to respond when beckoned
   Not eager to interact with people or surroundings but will look around to see what is going on | Flinches, whimpers cries, or guards/pulls away | Mild to Moderate

3 | Unsettled, crying, groaning, biting or chewing wound when unattended
   Guards or protects wound or surgery site by altering weight distribution (i.e., limping, shifting body position)
   May be unwilling to move all or part of body | May be subtle (shifting eyes or increased respiratory rate) if dog is too painful to move or is stoic
   May be dramatic, such as a sharp cry, growl, bite or bite threat, and/or pulling away | Moderate

4 | Constantly groaning or screaming when unattended
   May bite or chew at wound, but unlikely to move
   Potentially unresponsive to surroundings
   Difficult to distract from pain | Cries at non-painful palpation (may be experiencing allodynia, wind-up, or fearful that pain could be made worse)
   May react aggressively to palpation | Moderate to Severe

Comments ______________________

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