

How to Tell if Your Dog is in Pain.

◇ Dogs feel pain and discomfort for many of the same reasons as humans. Following their surgical procedure, they may experience some pain and discomfort requiring treatment.

◇ In most cases, your dog will exhibit subtle changes in behavior indicating pain. It is important to stay alert to these signs, because the sooner their pain is diagnosed and treated, the sooner healing can resume.

◇ The following are behaviors that may be associated with pain and discomfort.

VOCALIZING:

- Whines
- Howls
- Whimpers
- Yelps
- Groans
- Grunts

DAILY HABITS:

- Decreases in appetite
- Withdraws from social interaction
- Lapses in housetraining
- Sleeps more frequently or longer periods
- Pants excessively when at rest

GROOMING:

- Licks
- Bites
- Scratches a particular body part
- Coat lacks normal shine

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

- Restless
- Reluctance to move
- Difficulty rising from a laying position
- Trembles
- Seeks more affection than usual

SELF-PROTECTION:

- Protects a body part
- Non-weight bearing on a limb
- Limp
- Hides
- Resists being held or picked up

AGGRESSION:

- Especially a previously friendly dog*
- Acts out of character
 - Growls
 - Bites
 - Pins ears back
 - A normally aggressive dog may act quiet, docile

When Your Veterinarian Prescribes Pain Medication:

Do

- Follow the instructions provided
- Watch for potential side effects, including:
 - ◊ Vomiting
 - ◊ Diarrhea
 - ◊ Dark tarry stool
 - ◊ Anorexia
- Stop medicating if your dog shows any of these symptoms and **call Virginia Veterinary Specialists immediately**
- Keep the medications safely out of reach of your pets and children

Don't

- Change the dosage or frequency unless directed by your veterinarian
- Give any additional medication to your dog while it is taking the prescribed medication (without first talkin with your veterinarian)
- Hesitate to call Virginia Veterinary Specialists if you ever have questions or concerns