

Is my cat in pain? Signs of pain and discomfort in cats

The information below is designed to help decide if your cat is in pain or discomfort

Clear Signs of Pain

Possible/Slight Pain

No Signs of Pain

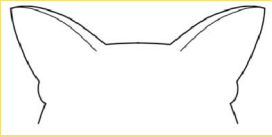
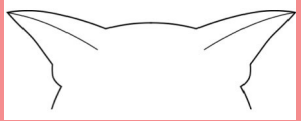
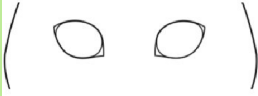
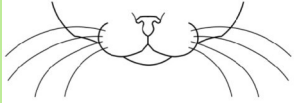
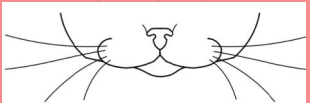
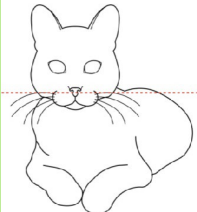
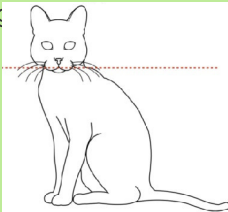
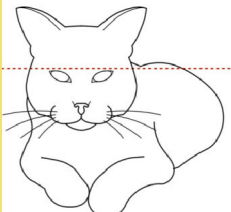
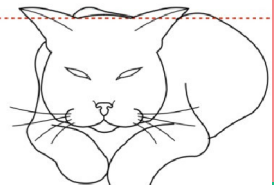
As small predators, cats must hide their pain from bigger animals that could hurt them and from other cats looking to fight for territory or a mate.

This means cats are very good at hiding when they are in pain – even from a trusted person!

How is your Cat Acting?

GENERAL BEHAVIOUR	Appears happy and content Silent, purring, or meowing Relaxed body position Responds normally to petting /attention	Disinterested/quiet; anxious/fearful Crying, growling, or groaning Licking lips, Restless/cowering Unresponsive to stroking	Dull, depressed/grumpy Crying, growling, or groaning Tense/crouched Aggressive response to stroking
	ignoring wound/incision or painful area	Paying attention to the wound	Paying attention to the wound

What is Your Cat's Body Language Saying?

EAR POSITION	Ears facing forward 	Ears slightly pulled apart 	Ears rotated outwards 
EYES	Eyes opened 	Eyes partially closed 	Squinted eyes 
MUZZLE TENSION	Relaxed (round shape) 	Mild tension 	Tense (elliptical shape) 
WHISKER POSITION	Loose (relaxed) and curved 	Slightly curved or straight 	Straight and pointing forward (away) 
HEAD POSITION	Head carried above the shoulders  	Head carried at the level of the 	Head carried below the shoulders or chin tilted down towards the chest  

If your cat is showing multiple signs of **possible/slight pain** or a few **clear signs of pain** please contact a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Information above is adapted from the Glasgow Feline Composite Measure Pain Score (University of Glasgow & Edinburgh Napier and NewMetrica Ltd.) and the Feline Grimace Scale (University of Montreal and Zoetis)

