

VTNE Self Study: Domain 9

Pain Management & Analgesia — 20 Practice Questions

1. Which behavior is MOST commonly associated with pain in cats?

- A. Increased vocalization only
- B. Hiding, decreased grooming, and reduced appetite
- C. Tail wagging
- D. Hyperactivity only

2. What is the BEST method to assess pain in veterinary patients?

- A. Owner opinion only
- B. Pain scoring system combined with patient assessment
- C. Appetite alone
- D. Temperature only

3. A dog recovering from surgery is panting, restless, whining, and guarding the incision site. What is the MOST likely concern?

- A. Normal recovery only
- B. Inadequate pain control
- C. Improved comfort
- D. Hunger only

4. Which drug class is commonly used for moderate to severe pain?

- A. Antibiotics
- B. Opioids
- C. Antifungals
- D. Vaccines

5. Which statement BEST describes multimodal pain management?

- A. Using one drug only
- B. Combining therapies to target pain through different mechanisms
- C. Avoiding analgesics
- D. Treating pain after surgery only

6. A client says, "My pet seems painful, but I don't want him sedated." What is the BEST technician response?

- A. "Pain medication always causes sedation."
- B. "Pain management is important for healing, and many options help keep pets comfortable without excessive sedation."
- C. "He will be fine without medication."
- D. "You should ignore mild pain."

7. Which patient sign MOST suggests pain?

- A. Relaxed posture
- B. Normal appetite
- C. Increased heart rate and guarding behavior
- D. Sleeping comfortably

8. A hospitalized cat after surgery refuses food, hides in the back of the cage, and becomes aggressive when touched. What should the technician suspect?

- A. Normal feline personality only
- B. Poor pain control or fear-related stress
- C. Improved recovery
- D. Hyperactivity

9. Which medication class reduces inflammation and pain?

- A. NSAIDs
- B. Antibiotics
- C. Antiparasitics
- D. Antifungals

10. Which adverse effect should be monitored with opioid administration?

- A. Increased appetite only
- B. Respiratory depression
- C. Hair loss
- D. Increased urination only

11. A dog with osteoarthritis has chronic stiffness and difficulty rising. What pain type is MOST likely present?

- A. Acute pain only
- B. Chronic pain
- C. Surgical pain
- D. No pain

12. Which non-pharmacologic pain management strategy can improve comfort?

- A. Cold metal cage only
- B. Comfortable bedding and quiet housing
- C. Increased stress exposure
- D. Excess restraint

13. A client asks, "Why does my pet need pain medication if he isn't crying?" What is the BEST response?

- A. "Animals always cry when painful."
- B. "Many animals hide pain, and controlling discomfort helps healing and recovery."
- C. "Pain medications are optional."
- D. "We are required to give it."

14. A patient receiving NSAIDs develops vomiting and decreased appetite. What should the technician recognize?

- A. Improved pain control
- B. Potential adverse drug reaction
- C. Normal expected behavior
- D. Increased energy

15. Which pain scale finding indicates worsening pain?

- A. Relaxed body posture
- B. Normal appetite
- C. Increased tension, vocalization, and guarding
- D. Sleeping quietly

16. A cat hospitalized for trauma begins crouching, has dilated pupils, and resists handling. What should the technician suspect?

- A. Improved comfort
- B. Fear, pain, or both
- C. Normal relaxation
- D. Sedation only

17. Which statement about acute pain is TRUE?

- A. It lasts for years only
- B. It is commonly associated with surgery or injury
- C. It should not be treated aggressively
- D. It is always behavioral

18. A client says, "My dog seems sleepy after pain medication." What is the BEST technician response?

- A. "Stop the medication immediately."
- B. "Mild drowsiness can occur with some medications, but let's discuss what you are seeing to ensure it is within normal expectations."
- C. "That is unrelated."
- D. "Increase the dose."

19. A post-operative dog receiving multimodal analgesia appears relaxed, eating, and resting comfortably. What does this MOST suggest?

- A. Poor pain control
- B. Effective pain management
- C. Severe anxiety
- D. Drug overdose

20. Which patient should receive the MOST proactive pain assessment?

- A. Healthy outpatient vaccine patient
- B. Post-operative orthopedic surgery patient
- C. Grooming appointment only
- D. Routine nail trim

Answer Key & Explanations

Domain 9: Pain Management & Analgesia

1. **B** — Cats often hide pain through behavioral changes
2. **B** — Pain scales + assessment are best practice
3. **B** — Panting, guarding, whining suggest pain
4. **B** — Opioids treat moderate to severe pain
5. **B** — Multimodal = multiple mechanisms of pain control
6. **B** — Educates while addressing concern
7. **C** — Increased HR + guarding are pain indicators
8. **B** — Pain and stress commonly overlap in cats
9. **A** — NSAIDs reduce inflammation and pain
10. **B** — Respiratory depression is a concern with opioids
11. **B** — Osteoarthritis causes chronic pain
12. **B** — Comfort measures reduce pain and stress
13. **B** — Animals often hide pain signs
14. **B** — GI signs may indicate NSAID adverse effects
15. **C** — These are pain indicators
16. **B** — Trauma cats may show pain and fear simultaneously
17. **B** — Acute pain follows injury or surgery
18. **B** — Mild sedation may occur and should be assessed
19. **B** — Comfortable behavior suggests good analgesia
20. **B** — Orthopedic patients require intensive pain monitoring

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended