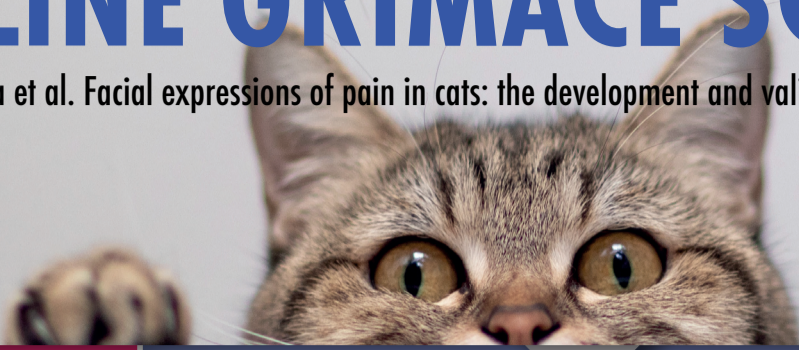


FELINE GRIMACE SCALE FACT SHEET

Evangelista et al. Facial expressions of pain in cats: the development and validation of a Feline Grimace Scale. Sci Rep 9, 19128 (2019)



WHY?

- Pain-induced behavioral changes are unique in cats and can be subtle

WHO?

- The instrument has been developed and validated to be used by veterinarians
- It is currently under testing for use by other veterinary care professionals

WHAT?

- The Feline Grimace Scale (FGS) is a simple method of acute pain assessment. It is based on changes in facial expressions and can be easily and quickly performed in the clinical setting
- It differentiates painful and non-painful cats and response to analgesic treatment

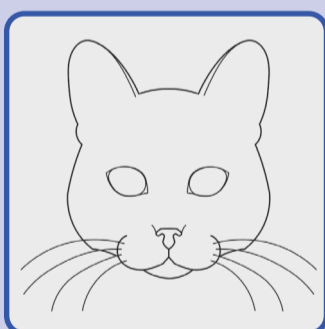
WHEN?

- The FGS is used for acute pain assessment in cats with medical, surgical or oral pain, etc.
- Pain assessment should be performed as often as needed and on a case-by-case basis

HOW?

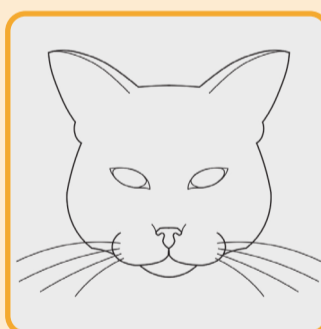
- There are five action units (AU): ear position, orbital tightening, muzzle tension, whiskers position and head position
- Each AU is scored: 0 (absent), 1 (moderately present) or 2 (present)
- The final score is calculated by the sum of scores divided by the maximum possible scores
- Analgesic treatment is suggested when the final score is $\geq 4/10$ or $0.4/1.0$

0 = AU is absent



- Ears facing forward
- Eyes opened
- Muzzle relaxed (round shape)
- Whiskers loose and curved
- Head above the shoulder line

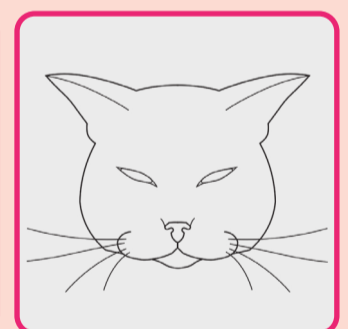
1 = AU is moderately present*



- Ears slightly pulled apart
- Eyes partially opened
- Muzzle mildly tense
- Whiskers slightly curved or straight
- Head aligned with the shoulder line

*The score of 1 can be also given when there is uncertainty over the presence or absence of the AU

2 = AU is markedly present



- Ears flattened and rotated outwards
- Squinted eyes
- Muzzle tense (elliptical shape)
- Whiskers straight and moving forward
- Head below the shoulder line or tilted down (chin towards the chest)

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Access the training manual
bit.ly/FGSmanual



Access the video
bit.ly/FGSvideo



Acknowledgement

