

# Is Your Dog in Pain?

## Their Behavior May Tell

Pets feel pain for many of the same reasons as humans, including arthritis, upset stomach, dental issues, infection, broken bones, cancer, and post-surgical pain. Unfortunately, unlike humans, they are not able to let us know when or where they hurt. Many subtle behavioral and physical changes can indicate that your dog is in pain. As a pet parent, you know your pet best and can observe subtle changes indicating that your pet may be in pain.

If your dog shows one or more of these behaviors and you suspect it may be due to pain, notify your veterinarian. If your family veterinarian is unavailable, MedVet is here to help.



### Signs Your Dog May Be In Pain:

#### Change in Activity Level

- Restlessness, reluctance to move, difficulty getting up from a lying position, repetitively gets up and lays back down, trembling, circling, lying very still, seeking more affection than typical, walking slower, or refusing to walk, reluctance to jump or use the stairs, panting excessively when at rest

#### Altered Body Positions or Movements

- Facial expression: Grimace, vacant or glazed stare, wide-eyed, enlarged pupils, flattened ears
- Posture: Hunched with hindquarters raised and front end lying on the ground, lying consistently in one position
- Self-protection: Protects a body part, doesn't put weight on a limb, has a limp, doesn't want to be held, touched, or picked up, reluctance to walk on slippery surfaces

#### Unusual behavior

- Aggressive: Growling, biting, pinning ears back, especially in a previously friendly dog
- Daily habits: Withdrawn or hiding, changes in sleeping habits, changes in eating/drinking habits, accidents in the house
- Vocalizing: Whining, whimpering, yelping, groaning, grunting

#### Change in Self-Care

- Grooming: Coat lacks normal shine or hair stands up in places
- Self-trauma: Licking, biting, or scratching a particular part of the body
- Appetite: Decrease in appetite, preference for soft foods