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Management of pain: A new standard in clinical practice

Significant progress in the management of animal pain has been made during the last 30 years. Through both basic and clinical research, our understanding of how to determine the levels of pain, the selection of medications and determine the effectiveness of treatment has greatly improved. We now have advanced to the level of having guidelines as a standard of clinical practice. All patients should be evaluated for pain when presented to the veterinary hospital. This provides control values for further evaluation following surgery or medical treatments. Thus the effectiveness of pain management can be determined and needed adjustments can be made to assure the patients are not suffering from undesirable pain. We now have a wide range of analgesics. It is now possible to use them as a single drug or as a combination. It is possible to select and manage either acute or chronic painful conditions. Even though this is now possible, it is necessary to follow a concept of standard care for successful treatment. This requires a team concept including involving the animal owners.

Biography

Charles E Short is an Emeritus Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, USA. He has completed his DVM at Auburn University in 1958. He is the Founding Charter Diplomate of American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists (1975) and Diplomate of European College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia (1996). He has been honored with Dr.h.c. (doctor honoris causa) from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki, Finland in 2015 and received his Career Achievement Award from American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia in the same year. He has made a total of 352 publications including 155 journal publications; textbooks, Veterinary Anesthesia, 1974; The Principles and Practice of Veterinary Anesthesia, 1987 and Animal Pain, 1991; book chapters and other scientific publications. He is the Co-Founder of International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management. He has made 447 presentations and lectures for professional groups in the United States and 293 in 45 countries.

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