Pain-induced behavioral changes are unique in cats and can be subtle. Grimace scales have been developed in other species, but not in cats—until now.

**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.

**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.

**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 ≥ 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)

**Access the training manual**
bit.ly/FGSmanual

**Access the video**
bit.ly/FGSvideo

**Acknowledgement**

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