

Creating pain plans for individual patients

When constructing a proper pain plan for an injured patient the veterinary technician must possess some requisite knowledge prior to starting the evaluation process. This knowledge includes: anatomy, procedural technique, and the available products that can be used for an analgesic effect. For example, a femoral fracture repair where the practice has the ability to do an epidural might be a much different approach than if a patient is undergoing an ovariohysterectomy and the practice only has buprenorphine.

When beginning the process of developing a pain plan the veterinary team must ask themselves several questions:

- 1- What type of pain (physiologic, pathologic?)
- 2- What is the location of the pain? Will there be (or is there currently) surgical pain?
- 3- Visceral or somatic pain?
- 4- Is there evidence of allodynia, primary or secondary hyperalgesia?
- 5- Is there peripheral or central sensitization?
- 6- What is the patient's physical exam and pain assessment like?
- 7- What medications has the patient been on? Have they been effective?
- 8- Will you be using allopathic techniques or a combination of allopathic and adjunctive (rehab, massage, TENS, etc) techniques?

Three cases will be discussed in lecture and attendees can take notes on each case.

Case 1: 9y MN Rottweiler presenting for limb amputation as a result of osteosarcoma. The patient has been on long-term Tramadol and NSAIDs to control the forelimb pain.

Case 2: 6mo FI Golden Retriever presenting for ovariohysterectomy. Healthy PE.

Case 3: 7y MN Persian with recurrent stomatitis presents for full mouth extractions. Healthy history and normal PE prior to oral procedure.
