



Pain Management Clinic

The pain management service provided by the anaesthesia and analgesia team at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital aims to incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach to the management of acute, perioperative and chronic pain in dogs and cats.

We offer an in-depth initial assessment of pain and suffering, taking account of the presenting condition, the current management and a thorough examination of the health of the patient. We will devise an individualised approach to treatment based on the outcome of the initial assessment, the owner's concerns and the most significant presenting problem.

Several treatment strategies may be employed including appropriate medication, environmental and lifestyle changes, acupuncture and physical therapies where indicated and occasionally referral to a specific service within the hospital for further diagnostic workup with the agreement of the referring veterinary surgeon and owner.

The importance of owner involvement and understanding will be essential. The initial assessment will be a thorough evaluation of the patient and the patient's environment taking into account the owner's concerns. Time will be taken to discuss at length the owner's involvement in the case with a realistic explanation of the likely outcomes, as well as giving advice on reduction of suffering and how this can be achieved. A treatment plan will then be agreed and implemented. Follow up appointments will involve re-examination and assessment, leading to appropriate alterations in the management of the case if necessary.

The Pain Management Clinic aims to help:

- Patients with poorly controlled chronic pain of musculoskeletal, spinal or visceral origin
- Owners who feel their pet's pain is not well controlled and would like to explore further management options
- Patients with chronic pain who are unable to tolerate certain treatments because of side effects or because of concurrent conditions
- Patients with no identified source of pain
- Patients following major painful surgery
- Palliative care (end of life) patients