

Understanding Pain Relief

Family Matters

One of the hardest things about being a pet guardian is knowing when your pet is in pain.

Unlike us, they can't point to where it hurts or tell us how severe it is.

In fact, many pets instinctively hide pain remarkably well.

At Amity, we believe no pet should suffer unnecessarily. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you recognise pain early and understand how we manage it safely and effectively.

Pain Is More Common Than You Think

Pain doesn't just occur after surgery or following an accident.

It can also be caused by:

- Arthritis.
- Dental disease.
- Ear infections.
- Bladder stones.
- Broken bones.
- Cancer.
- Skin disease.
- Back problems.
- Many other medical conditions.

Sometimes the pain is obvious.

Often, it isn't.

How Do Pets Show Pain?

Many pets don't cry out.

Instead, they show subtle changes in behaviour.

You may notice:

- Reluctance to jump or climb stairs.
- Slowing down on walks.
- Sleeping more.
- Hiding.

- Becoming quieter.
- Loss of appetite.
- Licking one area repeatedly.
- Becoming grumpy when touched.
- Simply seeming "not themselves."

These changes are your pet's way of asking for help.

Why Is Pain Relief Important?

Pain isn't simply unpleasant.

It delays healing, reduces appetite, affects sleep and can significantly reduce quality of life.

Treating pain allows pets to move more comfortably, recover more quickly and enjoy life again.

At Amity, we believe pain should be **anticipated, not waited for**.

That's why we provide pain relief before, during and after surgery whenever appropriate, rather than waiting for signs that a pet is already uncomfortable.

Different Pets Need Different Treatments

There isn't one painkiller that's right for every pet.

The most appropriate treatment depends on:

- The cause of the pain.
- Your pet's age.
- Other medical conditions.
- Current medications.
- Whether the pain is short-term or long-term.

Sometimes one medication is enough.

Sometimes combining different types of pain relief provides the best comfort while minimising side effects.

Never Give Human Painkillers

One of the most dangerous mistakes well-meaning owners can make is giving their pet human medication.

Common painkillers such as ibuprofen, diclofenac and many others can be extremely toxic to dogs and cats.

Even paracetamol, which is safe for many people, can be life-threatening to cats.

Always speak to your vet before giving any medication.

Comfort Is Our Priority

At Amity, pain management is one of the most important parts of every treatment plan.

We'll regularly assess your pet's comfort, adjust medication if needed and explain exactly why we've chosen a particular treatment.

Our goal isn't simply to treat disease.

It's to help your pet feel as comfortable as possible while they recover.

Because healing is about more than fixing a problem.

It's about restoring quality of life.

At Amity, **whether your pet needs pain relief for a few days or long-term support for a chronic condition, we'll continue working with you to ensure they remain as comfortable and active as possible.**

Because every pet deserves to live free from unnecessary pain.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.