
Attitudes and perceptions of veterinary paraprofessionals in New Zealand to postoperative pain in dogs and cats

K Kongara*[§], HE Squance*, IA Topham* and JP Bridges*

*Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University, Private Bag11-222, Palmerston North 4442, New Zealand.

[§] Author for correspondence: Email: k.kongara@massey.ac.nz

Supplementary Table 1: Questionnaire used to survey the attitudes and perceptions of veterinary paraprofessionals in New Zealand to postoperative pain in dogs and cats.

Demographics

*1. Which category below includes your age?

- ☐ 17 or younger
- ☐ 18-20
- ☐ 21-29
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60+
- ☐ 60 or older

*2. What gender are you?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

3. Which of the following categories best describes your veterinary nursing qualification(s)

- ☐ No formal qualification
- ☐ Certificate in Animal Care or equivalent
- ☐ Certificate in Rural Animal Technician or equivalent
- ☐ Certificate in Veterinary Nursing or equivalent
- ☐ Diploma in Veterinary Nursing or equivalent
- ☐ Bachelor of Veterinary Technology or equivalent
- ☐ Student Veterinary Nurse/Technologist

Other (please specify)

*4. If qualified, how many years have you been qualified?

- ☐ 1 - 11months
- ☐ 1 - 2 years
- ☐ 2 - 5 years
- ☐ 5 - 7 years
- ☐ 7 - 10 years
- ☐ 10 - 15 years

15 - 20 years

☐ 20 + years

5. What type of practice do you work in?

	Small Animal	Equine	Production Animal	Mixed
General Practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialty Practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>			

6. Pain score the following procedures in the first 12 hours after surgery*1 = no pain 10 = worst pain imaginable**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fracture repair in a dog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bitch spay	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog castrate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cruciate repair in a dog	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cat spay	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cat castrate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cat dental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repair of ruptured diaphragm in a cat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Caesarian section	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Do you agree/disagree with the following statements?

	Agree	Disagree
A degree of pain is required to stop the animal being too active after surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Animals benefit from perioperative analgesic therapy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Animals benefit from postoperative analgesic therapy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surgery does not usually result in sufficient pain to warrant analgesic therapy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Animal recover better from anaesthesia if given analgesic therapy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A pain scale to
assess a patient
would be/is a
useful clinical tool

Pain could be
better assessed in
animals

Agree

Disagree

Please comment on any of the statements if you wish to explain and/or comment on your answer

8. Who is predominantly responsible for monitoring animal pain postoperatively in your practice?

- ☐ Veterinarian
- ☐ Veterinary Nurse

Comment

9. Do you feel your knowledge of pain and assessment of pain could be enhanced?

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree

Comment

10. Where have you gained most of your knowledge about pain?

	Extremely useful	Useful	Somewhat useful	Occasionally useful	No use
Formal education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colleagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Journals & textbooks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seminars / workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clinical experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

***11. Do you use a formal pain scoring system in your practice?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ If yes, what type of pain scoring system do you use? If no, what is your preferred method of pain assessment?