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Library and Information Services

# Journal club checklist

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| **2022 AAHA Pain Management Guidelines for Dogs and Cats  Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association 58 (2): 55–76.** | |
| This checklist has been developed specifically to guide the discussion of these published guidelines as part of the development of practice guidelines relating to pain management for dogs and cats. It starts with some basic appraisal of the published guidelines and then focuses on how you might use the guidelines to develop specific recommendations for your practice. For those looking to carry out a more general appraisal of the guidelines RCVS Knowledge have developed a [Clinical Guidelines Checklist](https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/ebvm-toolkit-15-clinical-guidelines-checklist/). | |
| **Was the scope and purpose of the guidelines clearly defined?**  **Do you think that the published guideline fulfils this purpose?** |  |
| **Is the subject matter relevant to your practice?** |  |
| **Do the authors have appropriate knowledge and expertise to write this guideline?**  e.g. specialist status or appropriate postgraduate qualifications |  |
| **How up to date is the guideline?** |  |
| **How was the development of the guidelines funded?**  **Is there any evidence of bias in the evidence included or its interpretation?** |  |
| **METHODOLOGY** |  |
| **Was the methodology for developing the guideline clearly described?** |  |
| **Did the authors include a range of suitable evidence covering relevant questions?**  Is a full list of references included in the guideline? |  |
| **Are the recommendations clearly laid out?**  Have the authors critically appraised the evidence? Has the grading of the evidence been clearly described? |  |
| **Have differing viewpoints and knowledge gaps been discussed?**  **Are there any other areas that you would like to have seen covered in the Guidelines?** |  |
| **RECOMMENDATIONS** |  |
| 1. **Pain Assessment** |  |
| **What are the 4 guiding principles of pain assessment listed?**  **Are these relevant to your practice and do you wish to include them in your guidelines?** |  |
| **The published guidelines provide tables of pain assessment methods for cats and dogs.**  **Which of these do you already use?**  **Having looked at the evidence provided are there any other assessment methods you wish to introduce to your practice and include in your practice guidelines?** |  |
| **The published guidelines include reference to a number of Clinical Metrology Instruments.**  **Do you currently use any Clinical Metrology Instruments in your practice?**  **Do you wish to introduce the use of any Clinical Metrology Instruments into your practice and include them in your practice guidelines?** |  |
| 1. **Pain management** |  |
| **What are the guiding principles of pain management listed?**   1. **Acute pain** 2. **Chronic pain** |  |
| **For each of the following scenarios – discuss the 1st, 2nd and 3rd tier pain management therapies you are going to include in your guidelines.**  **Acute pain of unknown cause**   * **Cat** * **Dog** * **Any other species**   **Acute pain of known initial cause e.g. postoperative pain**   * **Cat** * **Dog** * **Any other species**   **Chronic pain e.g. Musculo-skeletal pain**   * **Cat** * **Dog** * **Any other species**   **Are there any other scenarios you wish to include in your practice guidelines?** |  |
| **Do you wish to include information on frequency of follow up and reassessment in your guidelines?** |  |
| **Are all the important aspects of the subject considered?**  Are there any questions that you would consider important that were not addressed in the guidelines? |  |
| **Having read the guidelines are there any primary sources or other references that you want to access?** |  |
| **Are there any areas where you would like to consider more evidence?** |  |
| **Having considered which points you wish to include in your practice guidelines what steps would be needed to implement them?** |  |
| **Are you clear on the roles and responsibilities for the practice team in implementing your practice guidelines?** |  |
| **Have you set dates to implement and review your practice guidelines?** |  |