



WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

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W12-027 - Development of Outcome Assessment Instruments for Chronic Pain in Cats

The goal of this study was to develop two ‘tools’ that can be used to measure chronic pain in cats and then appropriately design the studies that will identify new treatments. The first tool is the Feline Brief Pain Inventory (FBPI), which is an owner completed questionnaire that will allow them to identify and report on how the cat behaves at home, focusing on the behaviors that are related to chronic pain. Three focus group sessions were completed as step 1 of development of the Feline Brief Pain Inventory. We now know which behaviors should be incorporated into a first version of the FBPI to undergo testing for validity and reliability in further studies.

The second tool is a small activity monitor that can easily be worn on the cat’s collar while it progresses through its normal activities at home. The investigators have determined that the cat should wear the monitor for 7 consecutive days in order to collect a fairly consistent estimate of the cats’ routine activity while including the days of highest and most variable activity. Comparing 7-day intervals of activity over time in companion cats could be useful in determining the efficacy of interventions or monitoring the progression of disease. Although further investigation is necessary, this device continues to have potential as an objective tool for measuring activity in companion cats in the setting where they are found most often, at home with their owners.

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