ANIMAL PAIN MANAGEMENT CENTER
LOCATED AT
AMHERST SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Please Read Carefully

General Discharge Information

Thank you for allowing us to assist you with your loved one's health care. Pain management plays such a critical role in your pet's quality of life and relief from discomfort is almost always possible. Please keep these important points in mind:

- **The longer standing the pain, the more severe the pain, the longer it will take to get it under control.**
  - There is no magic pill. It may take a few weeks to several months for us to achieve full benefit.
- **It may take several dose adjustments and more than one medication trial before we achieve optimal pain control.**
- **Limited therapies will have more limited effects. Broad-based management is in your pet's best interest.**
  - Some patients require advanced in-hospital treatments to establish initial pain control.
- **It is not unusual for pain medications to make your pet groggy and sleepy during the initial treatment phase.** Should this be noticeable, please understand that **WE DO NOT EXPECT SLEEPINESS AND SEDATION TO BE A LONG TERM MEDICATION EFFECT AND WOULD NOT CONTINUE ANY MEDS THAT DID SO**. Usually such drowsiness lasts a few days to a few weeks then dissipates. It may be wise to limit your pet's time on slippery floors and to limit their access to stairs. If sedation does seem excessive to you please call the office to discuss this matter before discontinuing any medications.
- Cats are a much more challenging patient group to medicate via the oral route, especially long term. There are many, many different options to help us manage this with a minimum of frustration. Please let us know if you are not finding our initial plan as easily managed as you had hoped for.
  - Also see: www.vasg.org/long_term_cat_meds_administration1.htm
- Acupuncture may, in a few cases, make your pet more sore for a day or two before you see its benefits. If this seems to be the case, a cold compress using a bag of frozen corn or peas should be applied over the sore area for 20 minutes on and 40 minutes off as needed to reduce this discomfort.
- In chronic or more severe cases, it may take 3 to 7 acupuncture treatments to gain a significant benefit.
- Herbal medications may trigger loose stool. Should this occur, discontinue the herbal and call the office the next business day.
- NSAIDs include aspirin, carprofen, etodolac, meloxicam, tepoxalin, firocoxib, and deracoxib. This drug family can, in some cases, cause loss of appetite, vomiting or diarrhea. If you notice any of these symptoms, please discontinue the NSAID and call the office early the next business day.
- DO NOT MIX NSAIDS WITH CORTISONE MEDICATIONS (prednisone, prednisolone, dexamethasone, triamincinolone are some of the medications in the cortisone family).
- Do not give any other medications, **especially aspirin or ibuprofen,** unless we approve them first .
- Follow-up phone reports and office visits are critical to the pain management process. Please make every effort to hold to our recommendations.
- Remember that Dr. Stein can often be reached at DRSTEIN@VASG.ORG or 716-650-4045 outside of normal business hours. Please contact us first before contacting your regular veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's treatment as most veterinarians do not have a working familiarity with the medications and therapies that we use.
- We are building a practice website at www.managingpetpain.com. Please see this site for more information about what our practice has to offer to pain management patients. We would like to emphasize the advanced anesthetic capabilities of our practice. Please contact Dr. Stein if you have any questions about how we can increase the safety and comfort for your pet's next anesthetic event.
- For even more information on advanced anesthesia and pain management see the self-funded website that Dr. Stein built and maintains for veterinarians around the world: www.vasg.org.

Owner's signature _____ Date _____

INTEGRATING WESTERN MEDICATIONS, ACUPUNCTURE, PHYSIOTHERAPY AND ADVANCED ANESTHESIA TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND EXTEND THE LIVES OF OUR PETS