

RESOLUTION #13—2025
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
Board of Directors

Pain in Animals

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the revised policy on Pain in Animals as noted below (additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struckthrough~~).

~~Animal p~~Pain is a negative experience that adversely affects an animal's quality of life. The AVMA believes a comprehensive and humane approach to pain management for any animal is warranted, justifiable, and expected by society. ~~Drugs, techniques, or husbandry methods~~ The AVMA recommends the use of procedures and practices, including pharmacological and nonpharmacological methods, that prevent, minimize, and relieve pain in animals experiencing or expected to experience pain. These methods should be modified as new species-specific knowledge is acquired. Protocols must be tailored to ~~individual animals and should be based, in part, on the species, sex, breed, age, behavioral characteristics, health status of the animal, assessment of the degree of pain, degree of tissue trauma, and procedure performed.~~ degree of tissue trauma, individual behavioral characteristics, assessment of the degree of pain, and health status of the animal.

Statement about the Resolution

This policy was reviewed by the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC). The AWC believes expectations for, and the practice of, pain management should be commonplace in veterinary medicine, across species and environments. Effective pain management includes not only controlling existing pain but anticipating and preventing pain when possible. This might be through selection of an appropriate procedure or technique when more than one option is available, carefully choosing the age at which to perform the procedure (if elective), the multi-modal application of pharmaceuticals to manage pain, use of nonpharmacological tools (e.g., nutraceuticals, heat/ice therapy). The AWC believes it is important to acknowledge that methods should change as new species-specific knowledge is acquired. The AWC also made editorial changes to the last sentence, reordering the existing list. To support review, a clean copy is included as an [attachment](#).

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #4	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X (as amended)	X (as amended)		
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				