



## Staying pain free on the road to recovery

Cats, just like people, can experience pain after surgery. To keep this pain under control, and to ensure that your cat stays as comfortable as possible, it has already been given a dose of pain relief (analgesia). This should provide comfort until tomorrow.

Your vet has also dispensed a follow-up pain-relieving medicine, Metacam® Oral Suspension for Cats. Metacam® is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicine in an easy-to-give formulation which helps cats stay pain free during recovery. You should give this medicine once a day for the duration recommended by your veterinary practice. It can be given either mixed into the food or directly into your cat's mouth. Shake well before use.

All being well, your cat will make a good recovery. However, if at any time you believe your cat is uncomfortable or still experiencing pain, or you are worried in any way about his/her condition, please contact your vet to discuss the situation.

## Signs of pain or discomfort to look out for

Like in people, it is known that pain can persist for several days following injury or surgery. Unlike people, cats cannot verbally tell you when they are sore or in pain but they can tell you through their body posture and facial expression. The pictures and text on the back provide guidance on interpreting your cat's body language with regards to potential pain. Additionally, a pain-free cat will exhibit normal behaviour or routine, including eating normally, moving about well, and interacting with family members as s/he has in the past. That is the beauty of being able to manage pain! If you are in doubt, please call your veterinarian to discuss the need of additional pain management.

## Other things to note

You may have been given other medicines to use alongside Metacam® Oral Suspension for Cats. It is important that you give these as directed by your vet and finish the course(s) of treatment.

While uncommon, medication can cause stomach or bowel upset. If you notice nausea (often seen as drooling), vomiting, or loose bowel movements (especially with being off food), please stop administering medication until you have had the chance to discuss this with your veterinarian.



**Metacam®** 

# Do you recognize these cats?

This **SIMPLE 5-PICTURE SYSTEM** can help you identify facial expressions, postural features and behaviour that help indicate if a cat is in need of additional pain management after surgery.

## A picture of good pain control



### THE CROISSANT

This cat shows well controlled pain. The ears are pricked (upright) and forward, the eyes are not slanted. A horizontal line could be drawn through the centre of each eye. The back is minimally hunched and the cat appears bright and alert. This cat also displays a relaxed, tucked in leg posture, resembling a croissant.

## Faces of Acute Pain<sup>®</sup>



### THE HUMPY

A cat with a hunched back, legs straightened often sitting quietly at the back of the cage may be in pain. This cat also has droopy ears and slanted half closed eyes. This posture is often seen after abdominal surgery.



### THE SQUINTY

Cats with their heads down, ears “droopy” and eyes half closed and in a slanted position may be in pain. Note how a line drawn through the centre of the eyes makes a V shape.



### THE FLAT-OUT

Cats which are recumbent, tense or rigid may be in severe pain. This cat also has the facial expressions of pain: droopy ears and slanted half closed eyes.



### THE UNTOUCHABLE

Previously friendly and easy to handle cats that hiss, snarl or flinch or try to claw or bite in reaction to gentle pressure to a wound, or those that generally resent handling are probably in pain. A cat's reaction can be expected to be proportional to the amount of pain being experienced.

**Metacam offers a comprehensive pain package for cats.**