Me-OW!

Recording Patient Post Operative Pain Scores

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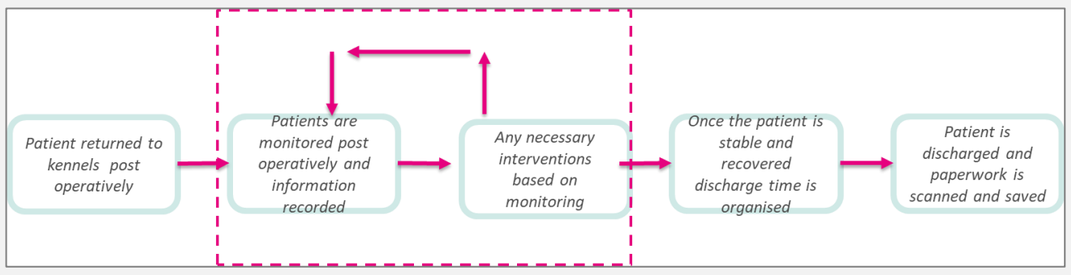
PROBLEM
Routine post operative patients aren't always having their pains score recorded on recovery. This can result in patients not receiving additional post operative pain relief and means we have a lack of traceable information, affecting patient hand over and post op care.

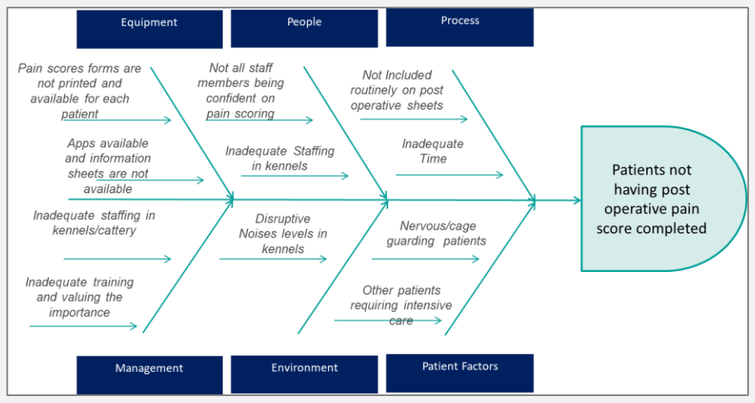
BACKGROUND

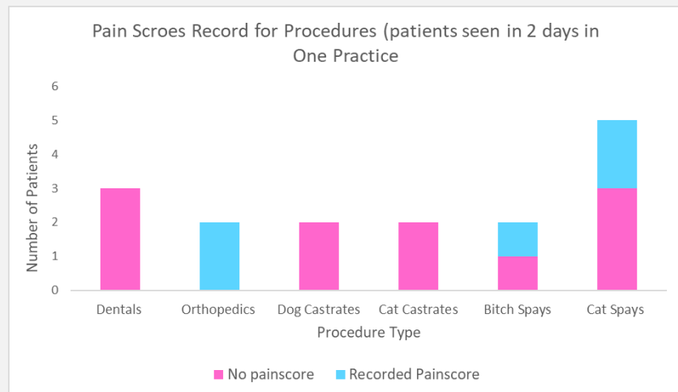
Post operative pain scoring is recommended as gold standard treatment by both the BVA and BVNA for all patients undergoing a surgical procedure.

Often pain score are only completed in more complicated 'more painful' procedures, meaning neutering patients are overlooked.

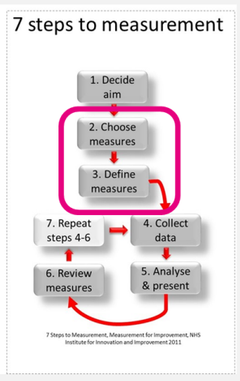
DIAGNOSTICS







AIM & MEASUREMENT DEFINITION



Aim
All routine cat and dog neutering post operative patients, will have a pain score completed and recording on their anaesthetic record. This will be achieved by March 2025

Chosen measure
The number of patients that are having pain scores recorded within 1 hour of returning to kennels.

Inclusions
All routine cat and dog neutering post operative patients

Exclusions
Aggressive patients – deemed not safe to access in kennels/cattery
Any procedure other then neutering including dentals, othro and lump removals
Any other species

Sampling method and frequency
Data will be collected retrospectively by checking the patients post operative sheets. For each PSDA I will asses 5 days worth of procedures.

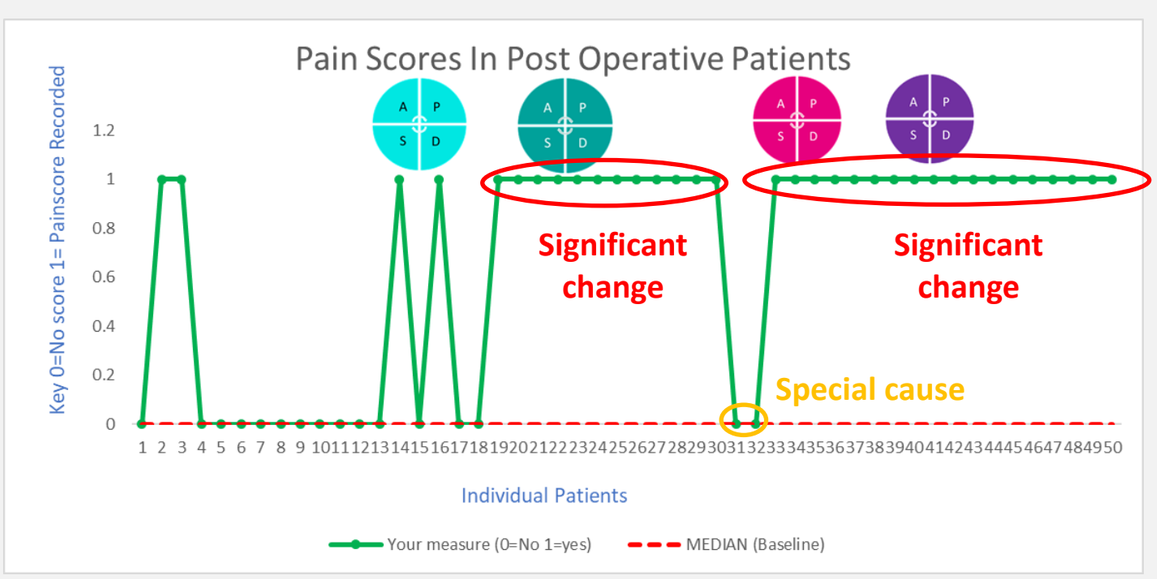
CHANGE IDEAS

Having Laminated copies of the pain scoring sheets on each Kennel
Pre-printing pain score with consent/anaesthesia forms
Lunch and learn on pain scoring
Downloading the pain scoring Apps on kennels iPad
New pain score posters
Vets requesting pain scoring on all patients at hand over
High-lighting pain score on the post op sheets
Sharing data with the team to encourage long-term change

PDSA cycles

Idea Abandoned, Change idea to adding the pain scores to all anaesthetic sheets to be printed daily	Printing and laminating copies of pain score attached to each kennel (including spares being available)	As this has been an effective change will extend this and continue to use the pre-printed pain score. The team involved has been really encouraging but my concern is currently it is very nurse driven and I feel in order to make a long term change I feel it needs to be a full team engagement	Create modified version of the pain score sheets which will be added to the patient consent forms, these are pre-printed prior to each patients being admitted.	This was an effective change and, more importantly, I saw the value of providing positive feedback to the team. I will continue to use feedback as a change idea	Present data to the whole clinical team to demonstrated the significant improvement in pain score recording	This change will be extended to include other surgical procedures. I hope the whole team being involved will continue to sustain change	The vet team to request pain scores to completed on patients as post op hand overs. Currently the project is nurse ran, for sustainable change all the clinical team need to be involved.
At point of study evaluated the kennels/cattery and determined that not possible to attach laminated sheets to all kennels. I looked at having clipboards on each kennel with the pain score but concluded this would make it more complicated for the team and felt this may affect the teams buy in for the change	Created modified versions of the pain score to print and laminate. When examining the kennels realised that the nurses put the clipboards on daily meaning there is no where to attach the sheets	This has been an effective change and has improved our completion of pain scores. The team have already started to adapt the process and are completing score for some patients prior to the painful procedures	Informed all Nursing/VCA to print the new version of the consent forms. After 1 weeks of implementation the number of pain scores recorded can be analysed.	Prior to completing this step there was a slight dip with two patients not receiving pain scores. This change helped encourage the team and highlighted the positive changes we have made	Presented data to all clinical team members, thanking them for their work and encouraging the improvement	This has been an effective change and has allows all team members to be involved in the process and understanding the importance of pain scoring	Discussed importance of pain score during the vet meeting and the importance of the vet role ensuring they are being completed.

RUN CHART



CONCLUSIONS

Based on the PDSA cycles completed we were able to meet our aim that all neutering procedures have a post operative pain score recorded on recovery, by March 2025. The change was statistically significant and sustained.
The initial changes of pre-printing the pain score sheets was an effective change as a visual reminder for the team and reinforcing the need to complete pain score. As a busy practice it is easy for other tasks to take priority, which can be seen in patient 31 and 32 where pain score where not completed (special cause). By involving all members of the clinical team when sharing the projects initial results we were able to reengage the team and once again discuss the importance of pain scoring. The vet involved in PSDA four was intended to be a safety net to ensure long term change.

REFLECTIONS & LEARNING

By using this Model for Improvement I have learnt the importance of logic when consider change ideas and how to adapt ideas. When implementing change ideas, it is important to ensure you are considering the team and working methods. By involving the team in the initial ideas it has helped create a system that worked and created a sustained change.
By involving different members of the team at different stages, it has resulted in a more long term change, almost creating safety nets for those more intensive days when other tasks can take priority. Finally, I feel the most valuable PSDA cycle was presenting the data to the team, giving positive feedback and thanking them for their involvement. This really created a positive change environment and I feel it really empowered the team!

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