

Abstract - Lloyd

Improving feline welfare: The role of digital technology in pain detection

Pain in cats can be challenging to recognise due to its subtle behavioural demonstration in this species. However, unmanaged pain significantly impacts the welfare of our feline companions.

This talk will highlight digital technology options that aid in the recognition of pain in feline patients, making assessment more objective and accessible. We will explore some of the tools available such as automated facial expression analysis and wearable activity monitors that provide continuous, non-invasive insights into a cat's discomfort. Emphasising the importance of early and accurate pain detection, the presentation will discuss how these technologies can support both veterinary professionals and cat caregivers in improving care and wellbeing.

By bridging traditional observation with digital innovations, this talk aims to raise awareness of the profound effects of pain on cats and provide some practical examples where this technology can support better management of pain as a disease.

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