



ACUPUNCTURE & YOUR PET

What is acupuncture?

Acupuncture is a form of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine that involves the placement of acupuncture needles just underneath the skin to stimulate points that are rich in blood vessels to move Qi (chee) and blood throughout the body.

How does acupuncture work?

When an acupuncture point is stimulated by a needle, the blood vessels near the point will either fill with blood or constrict to push blood away. It manipulates the flow of blood.

Where are the acupuncture points?

Acupuncture points are all over your pet's body. Some around the face and ears, others on the back, stomach, legs and pelvis.

Does acupuncture hurt?

Most pets do not mind the placement of the needles. Some pets will react quickly when a needle is placed near a painful area on the body. For example, hips suffering from dysplasia, backs diagnosed with intervertebral disk disease, or the stifle of a torn cranial cruciate ligament. Most dogs and cats relax once the needles are in place...some even fall asleep!

How long is each treatment?

An initial session takes about an hour, including the physical exam, documenting the history of your pet's health, pattern determination and acupuncture treatment.

How often are treatments given?

Each follow-on session takes about 30 minutes. We will work with you to determine how often your pet needs an acupuncture treatment.

Are there any side effects?

Typically, acupuncture does not have any side effects. Some pets will be tired or a bit lethargic after their initial treatment, but they bounce back fairly quickly.

What can acupuncture and Chinese herbs treat?

Acupuncture and Chinese herbs can treat many illnesses and injuries. A short list includes:

- Gastrointestinal disease
- Acute and chronic neck/back pain or intervertebral disk disease
- Skin and intestinal allergies
- Acute and chronic arthritis
- Liver disease
- Kidney disease
- Neurological disorders (e.g., seizures)

What are Chinese herbs? How do they work?

Chinese herbs are made from ancient formulas that were developed by traditional Chinese medicine practitioners thousands of years ago. The Chinese herbs help to augment what the acupuncture needles do during the treatment. Chinese herbs come in liquid, tablet, powder, and teapill (small, circular BB shaped pills).