

Acupuncture: Holistic Health Care for Your Pet

**Valley Veterinary Hospital now offers acupuncture
for our patients.**

**Please speak with a doctor or technician
if you would like to schedule an appointment for your pet.**

What conditions can be treated with acupuncture?

Acupuncture is used for a wide range of problems, including:

Allergies

Arthritis

Chronic back pain

Lick granulomas

Chronic eye problems

Chronic ear problems

Autoimmune diseases

Epilepsy

Chronic kidney failure

Recurrent bladder infections

Recurrent respiratory infections

Feline asthma

Chronic liver disease

Inflammatory bowel disease

Diarrhea

Chronic Constipation

Geriatric problems

Nausea caused by chemotherapy

Post-operative pain relief

Acceleration of wound healing

*Immunodeficiency (as in cats
with Feline Leukemia)*

Acupuncture is an excellent way to bring pain relief and quality of life back to the patient with chronic ailments, or to provide a holistic cure for acute problems.

How does it work?

Much research has been done to answer this puzzle! We now know that most acupuncture points have specialized nerve bundles that respond to acupuncture therapy. This has beneficial effects at all levels of the nervous system, and these effects lead to better function of all body systems -- reducing pain, correcting endocrine function, balancing the immune system, and a wide host of other positive responses. In other words, acupuncture recruits the body's own healing powers to reduce or eliminate a disease.

In China, where acupuncture was first developed over three thousand years ago, it has long been understood that acupuncture balances the flow of the body's essential energy, known as "Qi," and corrects the flow of "Fundamental Substances" (e.g., blood and lymph) to cure disease and restore overall mental and physical health.

How often and for how long is a patient treated?

This depends on the condition being treated. For some conditions, a single treatment will suffice – as in control of acute post-operative pain. But it is more typical to perform a

series of treatments, usually on a tapering schedule. Initial treatment is most often once a week, and is then based on your pet's response to therapy.

Does it hurt?

Acupuncture needles are thinner, smoother, sharper and more flexible than hypodermic needles. Most pets scarcely feel them going in! Once the needles are in place, they cause a very comfortable, relaxing sensation in most pets. Owners are surprised to see their dog or cat yawning or even napping during treatment!

Pets quickly learn to associate the exam room with an enjoyable experience – So if your pet is usually afraid of trips to the vet, you may see a delightful change in his reaction to the words, "Time to see your doctor!"

Would acupuncture help my pet?

Talk with any of our staff members who are acquainted with your pet's medical problems. We can help you answer this question. And if acupuncture is likely to help your pet, our staff can give you a good idea of what to expect on your first acupuncture visit.

Will it be done by a doctor?

Yes. Acupuncture at Valley Veterinary Hospital is performed by Dr. Susan M. Kelly, a licensed veterinarian and certified veterinary acupuncturist. Dr. Kelly will thoroughly evaluate your pet on your initial visit, and explain to you in detail what you can expect with your pet's acupuncture therapy.