



VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE



Acupuncture is the stimulation of specific points found all over the body to affect physiologic and biochemical processes within the body. Acupuncture has been around for thousands of years, used by Traditional Chinese Medicine extensively but now is widely used all over the world for nearly ¼ of the world's population's medical problems. Acupuncture has been used in dogs for nearly 4000 years.

When is acupuncture beneficial?

The most common group of illnesses that acupuncture is used for are musculoskeletal disease such as arthritis, developmental bone disease, intervertebral disc disease and tendon, ligament injuries.

Acupuncture, however can be used for a very large variety of other medical problems in animals such as nervous disorders, skin problems, kidney disease, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease and more.

How does acupuncture work?

Acupuncture primarily works in association with the central nervous system (CNS). The CNS is responsible signaling the movement and contraction of muscles but also the feeling of pain. Acupuncture helps block the pain pathway thus allowing for better mobility and strength.

Acupuncture also increases circulation, alleviates muscle spasm and stimulates nerves involved in other organ systems such as the kidneys and liver to cause a variety of other positive benefits.

Is acupuncture painful?

Acupuncture uses very small needles- actually quite smaller than any of the injections are given to pets. Many pets do not even notice the needles being placed into their skin. Occasionally a pet will experience a brief moment of sensitivity when the needle is placed but many pets will then relax and actually start to fall asleep while the needles are in place.

What can I expect with treatment with acupuncture?

Acupuncture sessions usually last 10-30 minutes. Acupuncture is great because it has very few side effects. One disadvantage to acupuncture is that it is slower to work than other treatments and therefore it can be expected to need 2-3 treatments before obvious benefits are seen. Some pets and conditions do not respond to acupuncture which is usually determined if no benefit are noticed after the third treatment session.