How in the world do you perform acupuncture on cats?

Most dogs and cats are extremely tolerant of acupuncture therapy. In fact, many patients enjoy their sessions as they associate them with relaxation and pain relief. The needles used for acupuncture are very fine and we work with the patient to create the most comfortable experience possible. It is common for owners to notice that their pets are more relaxed and even enthusiastic about coming into the hospital because of their positive experience with acupuncture.



How many treatments does my pet need?

The treatment schedule for acupuncture usually depends on the patient and pathology that we are treating. In general, most patients start with 1-2 treatments per week for 3-4 weeks. Then treatment intervals are gradually increased to once per month or once every few months.

What can you treat with Acupuncture?

People usually associate acupuncture with the treatment of orthopedic and neurologic conditions. However, acupuncture can be used for so much more!

Here are just some of the diseases

Here are just some of the diseases acupuncture can help:

- Osteoarthritis
- Inter-vertebral Disc Disease
- Epilepsy
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Sinusitis
- Asthma
- Degenerative Myelopathy
- Lymphoma
- Allergies
- Renal Failure

BVC Acupuncture room



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Holistic Medicine

Herbal Therapy

Acupuncture



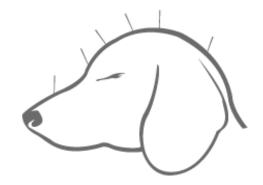
"Holistic medicine is the art and science of healing that addresses the whole person - body, mind, and spirit. The practice of holistic medicine integrates conventional and alternative therapies to prevent and treat disease, and most importantly, to promote optimal health. This Condition of holistic health is defined as the unlimited and unimpeded free flow of life force energy through body, mind, and spirit."

~ American Holistic Health Association

What is Acupuncture?

Veterinary acupuncture has been practiced for over 3000 years in China! Broadly, acupuncture is the practice of using fine needles to stimulate specific points on the body to achieve a desired therapeutic effect. In eastern medicine, it is believed that a life force energy or "Qi" flows through the body along specific pathways known as meridians. Pathology occurs when there is an imbalance caused by an excess, deficiency, or stagnation of Qi. Stimulation of specific points along these meridians is used to correct the imbalance. In western medicine, doctors have recognized that these designated points have an abundance of nerve endings, lymphatics, and blood vessels, likely facilitating their actions.





Why use Acupuncture?

Acupuncture is different from traditional western medicine. Profound therapeutic effects can be achieved without the adverse effects often associated with conventional medicine. Acupuncture is particularly valuable when medications are poorly tolerated or contraindicated in a patient. Acupuncture can also compliment the effects of western medicine, especially in the treatment of chronic conditions. The addition of acupuncture to an established treatment regimen can improve clinical outcome. Acupuncture can potentiate the positive effects of western medicine in conditions like inflammatory bowel disease and osteoarthritis. It can also be used to palliate the adverse effects of western medications, such as antibiotic-induced diarrhea or side effects from chemotherapy. Acupuncture is also a great option for patients with more than one condition. A single acupuncture session can be used to treat musculoskeletal pain in multiple areas, as well as concurrent systemic diseases.



What is herbal therapy?

Herbal therapy is the use of a plant or plant extract to prevent, alleviate, or cure disease. Herbal therapy is often used in combination with acupuncture or even western pharmaceuticals. The major difference between herbal medicines and western pharmaceuticals is the lack of significant alteration from its natural form. For example, consider the effects of drinking a cup of coffee in the morning versus taking a caffeine pill. Your cup of coffee is more like herbal therapy, while a caffeine pill is more like a pharmaceutical medication. Supporters of herbal therapy argue that the cup of coffee has less adverse effects because it is in its naturally occurring state. Herbal therapy is often used in combination with acupuncture, especially for internal conditions.