

Can Traditional Chinese Medicine help my pet?



TCVM can benefit your pet in the following areas:

- Pain relief
- Recovery from injury, illness and surgery
- Promote healthy organ function
- Act as an anti-inflammatory
- Regulate the immune system
- Promote circulation
- Performance enhancement and disease prevention
- Wellness and well-being

Musculoskeletal problems

- Muscle soreness
- Osteoarthritis
- Degenerative joint disease
- Tendon and ligament injury

Neurological problems

- Intervertebral disk disease
- Paralysis and Paresis
- Seizures

Gastrointestinal disorders

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Regulate gastrointestinal motility
- Constipation
- Incontinence
- Gastric ulcers

Other Chronic Conditions

- Asthma
- Skin conditions
- Endocrine disorders
- Phobias
- Behavioral problems
- Infertility
- Organ failure
- Palliative cancer care
- Geriatric weakness

Jennifer Phillips, DVM Veterinary Acupuncturist

Dr. Jennifer Phillips grew up in Beaufort, North Carolina, and received a bachelor's degree in animal science from North Carolina State University in 2000. She went to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for veterinary school, receiving her DVM degree in 2004. While a student there, Dr. Phillips developed an interest in holistic medicine and was president of the student holistic club. After graduation, she worked at a small animal clinic in Lombard, Illinois, for 5 years. Pursuing her interest in holistic medicine, she took the **International Veterinary Acupuncture Society's** acupuncture course and became certified in veterinary acupuncture in 2009. Currently Dr. Phillips is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, and the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture.



Dr. Phillips moved back to the East Coast and lives in Catonsville, Maryland, with her husband and daughter, two dogs, and one cat. Apart from veterinary medicine and chasing her daughter around, she enjoys traveling, running, knitting, and crocheting when she has extra time.



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The Ancient Art of Healing – a brief history of Acupuncture

Acupuncture is believed to be close to 6000 years old. However, the first documents that unequivocally described an organized system of diagnosis and treatment is **The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine**, dating from about 100 BC. The text is likely to be a compilation of traditions handed down over centuries, presented in terms of the prevailing Taoist philosophy, and is still cited in support of particular therapeutic techniques. The concepts of channels (meridians or conduits) in which the Qi (vital energy or life force) flowed were well established by this time, though the precise anatomical locations of Acupuncture points developed later.

Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine

Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine includes Acupuncture, Herbal Remedies, Food Therapy and environmental modification. The Chinese have treated animals using TCVM principles since 800 B.C. Treatment methods have been developed and refined throughout the past 2800 years. TCVM works well when integrated with Western (conventional) Medicine.



Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine follows the 3,000-year-old principles of balancing the body to treat and prevent disease. Treatments work to heal the body by restoring a balance between its Yin, Yang, Qi, and organ systems; imbalances in these systems result in disease and illness. Yin and Yang are found in everything, living or not, on the planet. These terms describe the interdependent relationship of opposing but complementary forces believed to be necessary for a healthy life. Qi is the vital energy which must flow freely through the body for optimal performance; blockages in Qi flow result in pain and organ dysfunction.

Herbal Veterinary Medicine

Herbal Medicine – Chinese and Western herbal therapies each have their own unique historical development spanning thousands of years. Herbal formulas use synergistic combinations of plant substances that can often be used in place of pharmaceutical drugs with fewer side effects.



Frequently Asked Questions

How does Acupuncture work?

Acupuncture is a method that encourages natural self-healing in the body and improves overall body function. The acupuncturist strategically inserts tiny needles into specific acupuncture points to stimulate them. All acupuncture points are located in areas of high density nerve endings, blood vessels and signaling cells. Stimulation of the points leads to pain relief and improved organ, muscle and nerve function. Chinese medicine is based on the premise that the body knows how to heal itself; point stimulation simply helps the body regain its natural balance.

Each individual's system is unique and therefore requires customized treatment. If 10 pets are afflicted with the same disorder, there may be 10 different Chinese treatment protocols based on the Chinese pattern of imbalances.

Does Acupuncture hurt?

No. Most animals are readily accepting of acupuncture, and many even fall asleep during treatment. Acupuncture causes a feeling of heaviness and local muscle contraction and relaxation around the treated acupuncture points.

How long are the treatments? How many treatments will it take to see results?

Each acupuncture session includes a full Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine exam and treatment. The acupuncture itself typically lasts 10 to 30 minutes. Mild and short-term problems may be cured with a few weekly sessions, while chronic or severe conditions may necessitate ongoing treatment. Frequency of treatment is dictated by the individual condition. Most patients start with weekly treatments which are then decreased in frequency as the patient begins to heal.