



Acupuncture for your Pet

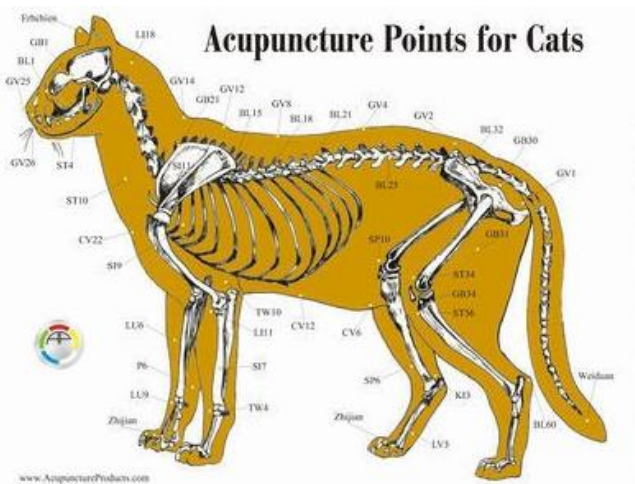
Alora Vets are proud to offer acupuncture treatment for dogs, cats and rabbits and we welcome all enquiries on the suitability of this for your individual pet.

These appointments are led by our Clinical Director Rebecca McPeake BVMS CertAVP MRCVS. Rebecca says "I have a keen interest in a holistic approach to pain management in all companion animals and I am delighted we can offer our patients acupuncture as an alternative treatment here at Alora Vets."

What conditions are treated with acupuncture?

Pain is the most common indicator, in particular osteoarthritic pain, closely followed by muscle strains. Pain secondary to disc disease and bony changes of the spine can also be treated. Some other conditions found to respond include; constipation in cats, inflammatory bowel disease in dogs, and chronic skin wounds.

What is it and how does it work?



Acupuncture is the practice of inserting fine, solid needles into the body for pain relief and in some cases, to help with other conditions such as wound healing. Acupuncture has been practised for 100 of years in humans and now pets are realising the benefits too.

Acupuncture works through the nervous system. The needles block the pain messages and encourage the brain and central nervous system to produce more of the body's natural pain killers.

Will treatment hurt my pet?

Acupuncture needles stimulate the patients nerves to send a message to their brain to block pain. Some animals can react to this sensation but they quickly relax as pain does not then occur. The large majority of patients become relaxed and often sleepy during or after their treatment. Patients usually look forward to coming to see us for their next treatment.

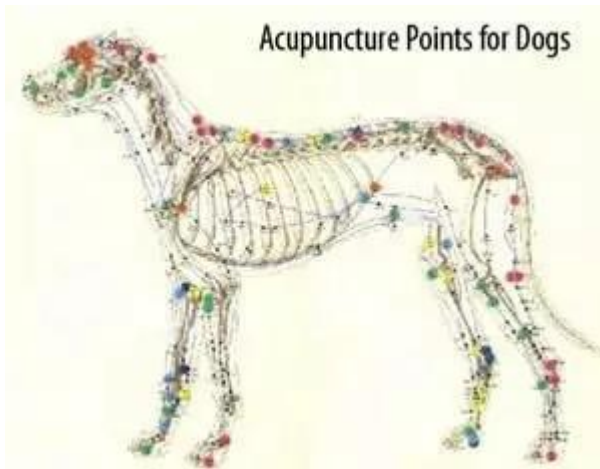
How often will my pet need treatment?

An initial course is once a week for 4-6weeks.



This enables us to assess if our treatment plan is working and your pet is responding. We will then tailor a plan for reducing the frequency of your pet's acupuncture sessions, whilst maintaining the positive effects for as long as possible. The average interval between long term treatments is four to six weeks but can vary with each individual patient.

Is it safe?



Acupuncture is very safe in the right hands and legally can only be administered by a Veterinary Surgeon with an expansive knowledge of anatomy. A full appraisal will always be completed before any treatments are considered.

What can I expect to see after treatment and how will my pet respond?

Some pets go home and sleep profoundly after treatment. This is a good sign and shows your pet will likely respond well to acupuncture. Conversely some will not be sleepy, please don't worry, this doesn't mean they will not respond. Some pets become a little euphoric, this is a good sign too, but it is still a good idea to try and keep them a little quieter for the rest of the day to avoid over doing things!

As a general rule one of three responses to treatment will occur:

- Initial stiffness or feeling uncomfortable indicates a positive response to treatment and will usually ease within a day or two of the treatment.
- No apparent response. Until your fourth session it may be unclear if your pet will respond. Some pets may not show an improvement however approximately 80% of cases demonstrate a good response.
- You will see a real improvement – excellent! This can happen anytime up to 3 days after their treatment. Symptoms may reappear before your pet's next treatment – this is normal too. After each subsequent treatment the beneficial effects should last longer.

Always tell your Veterinary Surgeon about your pet's response to their treatments so their treatment dose can be adjusted at their next session.