

ACUPUNCTURE

WHAT IS ACUPUNCTURE?

ACUPUNCTURE HAS EVOLVED FROM THE ANCIENT ART OF PLACING NEEDLES INTO SPECIAL LOCATIONS ON THE BODY, TO ALLEVIATE PAIN AND INCREASE THE RECOVERY RATE AND RESISTANCE TO DISEASE. IT IS A SYSTEM OF HEALING WHICH HAS BEEN PRACTISED BY THE CHINESE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE ACUPUNCTURE (TCM)

THE PHILOSOPHY AND AIM OF TCM IS TO RESTORE EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL FACTORS, THUS RESTORING AND MAINTAINING HEALTH. THE TREATMENT INVOLVES USING NEEDLES IN SPECIFIC POINTS TO ADDRESS IMBALANCES IN YIN & YANG. IT ALSO FOCUSES ON QI WHICH IS THOUGHT TO BE THE LIFE ENERGY THAT RUNS ALONG SPECIFIC MERIDIANS THAT REGULATE BODILY FUNCTIONS AND NOURISH ORGANS.

WESTERN SCIENTIFIC ACUPUNCTURE

THE WESTERN VIEW OF ACUPUNCTURE IS USED PREDOMINANTLY IN THE TREATMENTS OF MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS AND IN PARTICULAR, CHRONIC PAIN STATES IN ANIMALS. THE EFFECT OF ACUPUNCTURE IS LARGELY SEGMENTAL, THAT IS NERVES, MUSCLES AND ACUPUNCTURE POINTS AND NEEDLES IN THE SPINAL CORD SEGMENTS OF THE PAINFUL AREA.

THESE EFFECTS, COMBINED WITH LOCAL NEEDLING OF PAINFUL TRIGGER POINTS IN TAUT MUSCLE BANDS RESULT IN EXCEPTIONAL PAIN RELIEF. ACUPUNCTURE IS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASE STATES, EITHER TO COMPLIMENT ORTHODOX TREATMENT, OR WHEN ORTHODOX TREATMENT FAILS.

HOW DOES ACUPUNCTURE WORK?

WITH WESTERN ACUPUNCTURE WE FOCUS ON NEEDLING SPECIFIC ACUPUNCTURE POINTS, TRIGGER POINTS (TRP'S) AND TENDER POINTS. TRIGGER POINTS ARE AREAS IN MUSCLE THAT ARE ACUTELY PAINFUL ON PALPATION, OFTEN WITH A WIDE REFERRAL PATTERN, AND WITHIN A TAUT BAND OF MUSCLE. ON PALPATION OF TRP'S YOU OFTEN SEE A JUMP SIGN (INVOLUNTARY JERK).

THE SPECIFIC EFFECTS OF ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLING ARE MEDIATED THROUGH STIMULATION OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND NEUROMODULATION WITHING THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS). ACUPUNCTURE INCREASES THE BODY'S RELEASE OF NATURAL PAINKILLERS - ENDORPHINS AND SEROTONIN, AND MODIFIES PAIN PATHWAYS IN THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD.

HOW WILL MY ANIMAL RESPOND?

ANIMALS ON THE WHOLE ACCEPT NEEDLING VERY WELL, AND IN FACT MAY BECOME VERY RELAXED. OCCASIONALLY ANIMALS BECOME VERY TIRED OR DROWSY FOR UP TO 24 HOURS AFTER TREATMENT. ANIMALS MAY ALSO EXHIBIT OTHER BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES AFTER ACUPUNCTURE SUCH AS IMPROVED APPETITE AND DEMEANOUR AS WELL AS OBVIOUS PAIN RELIEF.

SOME ANIMALS ARE VERY RESPONSIVE TO ACUPUNCTURE AND WILL SHOW DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT AFTER ONE TREATMENT. THE VAST MAJORITY WILL IMPROVE GRADUALLY OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. ON AVERAGE 4-6 TREATMENTS ARE REQUIRED. THESE ARE GIVEN WEEKLY INITIALLY WITH GRADUALLY INCREASING INTERVALS UNTIL

THE DESIRED EFFECT IS ACHIEVED. THE FREQUENCY OF TREATMENT DEPENDS ON INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, AND REGULAR TOP-UPS ARE USUALLY REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS.

CONSULTATIONS LAST HALF AN HOUR WITH NEEDLES LEFT IN PLACE FOR 5-10 MINUTES.

SOME PATIENTS ALONG WITH SOME CONDITIONS ARE REFRACTORY TO NEEDLING AND WILL NOT RESPOND.

ADVERSE EFFECTS ARE EXTREMELY RARE, ESPECIALLY WHEN CARRIED OUT BY APPROPRIATELY TRAINED PERSONNEL. SOME ANIMALS MAY APPEAR WORSE IN THE FIRST 24 HOURS.

TREATABLE CONDITIONS IN DOGS AND CATS:

- BACK PAIN - SPONDYLITIS/SPONDYLOSIS & DISC DISEASE
- ARTHRITIS - HIPS, STIFLES, HOCKS, ELBOWS AND SHOULDERS
- HIP DYSPLASIA
- ELBOW DYSPLASIA
- MUSCLE & LIGAMENT SPRAINS, STRAINS & SPASMS
- URINARY INCONTINENCE
- URINARY RETENTION
- CHRONIC GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE
- LICK GRANULOMAS
- WOUND HEALING



ONLY VETERINARY SURGEONS ARE LEGALLY ABLE TO ADMINISTER ACUPUNCTURE TO ANIMALS.

