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ACUPUNCTURE THERAPY

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The traditional Chinese medicinal therapy of acupuncture is well known for its ability to facilitate healing of wounds and relieve the pain associated with musculoskeletal ailments. It also can be used to encourage the body to heal medical problems! Through the insertion of needles into key “electrical” points of the body the patient is encouraged to rebalance their body’s energetic pathways. This allows them to function with greater efficiency. Initially, acupuncture treatments are done one to two times a week. Once improvement is noticed (usually 2 to 8 treatments) the treatments are continued as needed to maintain the improvement. After the patient has responded to their maximum benefit, treatment is done on an as needed basis. These “tune-ups” are generally done every 1 to 4 months. Some acute problems completely resolve and the patients will not need further treatment for that condition. Some patients with chronic illness problems will need to have tune-ups on a regular basis to keep them as comfortable as possible. Chinese herbal medicines help ‘feed’ the physical body, can moderate symptoms and can encourage healing.

ACUPUNCTURE TECHNIQUES

***Acupressure** – massage of acupuncture points usually with the fingers.

***Acupuncture** – insertion of fine taper point solid needles into acupuncture points. These are left in for variable amounts of time, depending upon the desire to sedate or tonify the acupuncture point(s), usually 10 to 20 minutes.

***Electrical acupuncture** – insertion of taper point solid needles into the acupuncture points with stimulation of these points by mild electrical impulses. This works well for those cases that have paralysis of muscle groups or nerves, (as long as the nerve’s myelin sheath is intact).

***Aquapuncture** – insertion of liquid (usually B-12) into the acupuncture points through small gauge needles. This technique works well for the pets that do not like to hold still for the time needed for acupuncture. In my experience most pets with epilepsy or musculoskeletal problem like arthritis, disk disease or hip dysplasia respond better to this or the next treatment method.

***Neural therapy aquapuncture** – insertion of small amounts of lidocaine into acupuncture points. This is very useful in arthritis, hip dysplasia, vertebral spondylosis, disk disease, epilepsy and maladies due to scar formation. A combination of Vitamin B-12, lidocaine and normal saline mixed together has produced the best of all my acupuncture techniques, for the maladies listed above.

***Implant acupuncture** – insertion of gold wire, silver wire, silver-plated beads or most often gold plated beads in acupuncture points. These are used to continually treat acupuncture points. Most often used for hip dysplasia, ventral spondylosis of the back and epilepsy control. It is best to see an improvement from one of the above treatment methods before this surgical technique is done.