

Veterinary Acupuncture Client Information Sheet

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Acupuncture is one therapeutic branch of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Traditional acupuncture is a medical treatment performed by the insertion of sterile (single-use) acupuncture needles through the skin into the underlying tissues and muscles at specific points on the body for the purpose of alleviating pain and treating other clinical conditions. In the state of Texas, only a licensed veterinarian may treat an animal with acupuncture. A minimum of 3 to 5 treatments is needed before a response to therapy can be reasonably expected.

Ancillary techniques of acupuncture may include one or more of the following:

- Electroacupuncture- needles are electrically stimulated at various frequencies to enhance stimulation and analgesia of the area involved.
- Moxibustion - herbal heat is applied to specific acupuncture points.
- Laser acupuncture- use of laser energy to stimulate acupoints.
- Aquapuncture (with or without vitamin B12)- injection of fluid to stimulate specific acupoints

Each animal is different in his or her response to acupuncture. When first starting acupuncture treatments, it is not uncommon to see a temporary worsening of symptoms. This is usually seen within the first 48 hours of treatment, and is not seen with every patient.

Acupuncture is considered to be extremely safe. Possible side effects of acupuncture, which can occur at any time during the course of therapy, include the following:

- Bruising, redness, or swelling at the site of the needle insertion. These effects are not uncommon. Bruising should dissipate within a few days. Redness or swelling generally dissipates within a few hours.
- Soreness or sensitivity at the treated sites. These signs are common and often indicate a strong response to the acupuncture treatment; they generally resolve within a few days.
- Light-headedness or weakness after a treatment. This usually lasts only a few minutes and is rarely seen in animals.
- Apparent lethargy after a treatment. This is usually a positive effect, and is due to the deep relaxation state that is created. We ask that you take care in getting your pet into the car, walking it in a busy area, etc. after treatment.

Prior to your pet's appointment:

- It is very important that your pet has neither fasted nor has eaten a heavy meal prior to treatment; a light snack or small meal is preferred.
- Please walk your pet to eliminate prior to treatment (dogs only).
- Rehabilitation therapy, exercise, or other necessary activities should be performed prior to therapy, not after.

After your pet's appointment:

- Allow your pet to rest or sleep if they desire.
- Do not exercise your pet.
- Avoid stressors (travel, boarding, etc).

Acupuncture has been found to have significant therapeutic effects in approximately 90% of patients; about 10% percent of them will not respond. We will rely on your (and, when applicable, your veterinarian's) evaluation of the changes in your pet's condition to determine how he or she is responding.

Acupuncture should not be performed on animals who are pregnant, have bleeding disorders, are taking anticoagulant medications (not common in veterinary medicine), have a pacemaker implanted, or have significant skin or soft tissue infections in the treated areas. Please notify us if your animal has a seizure disorder.

Dr. Carlye Rose practices integrative medicine, whereby traditional Western medical diagnostics/treatments are combined with TCM (acupuncture, herbs, etc). With few exceptions, it is important that your pet has had a traditional evaluation by a veterinarian for the condition(s) to be treated with TCM.