



# Acupuncture in Pets

## *What is Acupuncture?*

Acupuncture is the insertion of small, thin needles into specific points or areas of the body to stimulate the nervous system. This therapy sends signals through the tissues and the nerves to the spinal cord and the brain. Acupuncture enhances circulation, relieves pain, and promotes healing - naturally and safely!

## *What Conditions Can be Treated with Acupuncture?*

Acupuncture has been shown to be effective in treating a wide range of ailments, affecting each different area of the body. Some of the most common conditions that respond well to acupuncture are:

- Arthritis/hip dysplasia
- IVDD
- Nerve injury/paralysis/weakness
- Decreased range of motion
- Limping/lameness
- Tendon injuries
- GI issues - vomiting, diarrhea, and constipation
- Allergies and skin conditions
- Respiratory issues
- Urinary/kidney disease
- Stress/anxiety

## *Why Choose Acupuncture?*

This alternative treatment offers drug-free pain relief; this is beneficial for pets that may have decreased organ function and cannot tolerate medications, or for pets that are especially difficult to medicate. For pets that do need medications to manage symptoms, acupuncture works well alongside traditional treatments to provide even more symptom relief. One of the most notable benefits is that there are little to no side effects of acupuncture. This treatment is also tailored to your pet and their specific health needs. It is a great option for improving a pet's quality of life, especially with chronic conditions.

## *What to Expect in an Acupuncture Session*

In a treatment session, the veterinarian will place needles along the body, limbs, and sometimes even the head. These needles are very fine and virtually painless to the animal. An electric current may be attached to the needles, depending on the targeted area/ailment. It is very important that pets stay still and calm during a session, luckily most pets tend to relax or even fall asleep during their treatment! For those that are a bit more nervous, they may benefit from anxiety medication prior to a session and they may need extra pets or treats during their treatment. It is important to note that it can take at least 4 weekly treatments before any changes/improvements are seen. Your veterinary acupuncturist will tailor a treatment plan/schedule specifically for your pet, as some conditions require more frequent treatments than others.