

ACUPUNCTURE FOR DOGS

An Introduction



Total Pet Publishing
THE PET PUBLISHING COMPANY

Acknowledgements

We give our thanks to the following for their invaluable contributions within this guide:

Nick Thompson www.holisticvet.co.uk

ACUPUNCTURE FOR DOGS

*“The world was conquered through the understanding of dogs; the world exists through the understanding of dogs.”
~ NIETZCHE*

About this guide

In this eBook we will present to you a simple, easy to follow introduction to the holistic treatment, acupuncture.

What we are seeking to achieve with this guide is to give all the information you require to get an insight in to this ancient, but increasingly popular approach to all round health in your pet.

This note is important. Always seek the advice and opinion of pet care professionals should your dog be experiencing pain or displaying symptoms of illness.

What Is Acupuncture?

Acupuncture is a non-painful procedure to stimulate healing and pain-relief without drugs. It is used extensively in veterinary practices throughout the UK, Europe, Australia and the USA. Dogs, cats and horses have all benefited from its gentle healing effects and here we bring you an insight into how and why its popularity is on the rise amongst pet owners.

Musculo-skeletal problems are most commonly treated using acupuncture. Arthritis, back and neck pain, lameness and post operative recovery can all respond. In my practice I most commonly treat GSDs and Labs with hip arthritis due to hip dysplasia, elbow arthritis due to elbow dysplasia and all three conditions due to wear and tear in older dogs. Incontinence in bitches and sinusitis with nasal discharge can often be helped, too, so it's not just joints we need to be thinking about.

I'm currently seeing a fantastic 12 month old chocolate Lab called Beetle.

He was discovered to have pretty severe hip dysplasia at six months old. We are using acupuncture and osteopathy to get him through to about 15 months old when he needs to have both hips replaced.

The combination of needles and osteopathy is allowing minimal use of Metacam. After starting on acupuncture he

has gone from being a whiney puppy who didn't want to do anything but sit and lie around to being pretty much a normal puppy (apart from having to be kept on the lead to protect him from running around like a loony)!

Oggie is a different kettle of fish. He is an eight year-old Blood Hound whose hips and elbows become sore periodically. His owners are very good at spotting if it's his elbows or hips that are bothering him.

After four weekly sessions he was much brighter and able to romp around like he hadn't before. Now, they bring him in for a top-up session every so often and he's doing well. He's been saved from a life of pain-killers by using the needles.

We place short ultra-fine needles in specific areas we know as acupuncture points. These are small points on the skin that bear an especially good nerve supply.

Stimulating the area with needles causes reflex impulses to move up to the spinal cord to change the operation of pain and inflammatory modulators in the spine. Signals are then sent to the brain and back to the affected area to affect inflammation, pain perception and promote healing.

Acupuncture has been used in the East for thousands of years. The Traditional Chinese Medicine model talks of energy called Qi (pronounced 'chee' – like cheese without the 'z' sound) which flows around the body in meridians

or channels. Trauma, excessive heat, cold or damp, for example, cause disruption of the flow of Qi. Stagnation of the flow then leads to disease in that joint or organ.

It's a bit like traffic flowing round the UK on motorways; roadworks cause backlogs and jams and result in chaos. Needles act like the traffic police – they arrive at the cause of the problem, sort the problem and allow normal flow of traffic again. Normal flow of Qi maintains healthy joints and organs leading to improved health.

Overall I would advise the use of acupuncture wherever we see any focus of joint pain; neck, back or leg pain especially.

Conventional vets have only really got drugs like Metacam or Rimadyl to use, so if they see a dog with stiffness due to arthritis, that's all they can bring into play to help. If they can refer you to a veterinary acupuncturist you have another treatment avenue open to you. Your arthritic dog may well need drugs, but it may be possible to delay their use until much later in their life.

Acupuncture can be used as a half way point between drugs and surgery – where drugs are not helping a problem, but surgery is not desirable because of age or condition of the dog. Again – acupuncture gives you options.

To find a veterinary acupuncturist near you, the Association of British Veterinary Acupuncturists has a very informative website: www.abva.com.

History of Acupuncture

As many as four thousand years before the Eastern and Western worlds made contact to trade, the Chinese practiced a form of healing art that created a balance between Mind, Body and Spirit. The theory on which acupuncture is based is derived from the concept of Yin and Yang. The Chinese believe to this day that life takes place on the alternating rhythm of Yin and Yang.

Yang is said to represent light and activity and Yin represents light and activity. One follows the other indefinitely. The balance of Yin and Yang relies on the flow of Qi being uninterrupted. If the flow is interrupted, disease occurs. The practice of acupuncture is said to restore the pathways on which Qi travels, should they become interrupted.

Acupuncture points occur all over the body (365 in humans). Fine needles are inserted to these points to restore the flow of Qi. The principles of Qi energy and acupuncture have successfully been applied in veterinary medicine since the early seventies and is quickly shedding the notion in the West as being a radical practice.

Early veterinary practices assumed the notion of treating a human on all fours when performing acupuncture on

animals such as dogs, pigs and horses. The acupoints are in essentially the same position on humans as they are on dogs, so the treatment protocols have remained almost the same since the practice was first introduced to Western countries.

Acupuncture used to be a little known medical treatment only known in the east. Today it is a well known treatment in both eastern and western societies. It is gaining popularity among the medical profession as a healing art with little to no negative side effects, writes [Krzysztof Sroka](#) of the acupuncture resource site.

Acupuncture can be used to prevent or aid in healing of illness, for reduction of pain, and can be used in conjunction with other forms of medicine and treatment. Acupuncture helps the body by stimulating essential nervous energy and increase blood flow and lymph flow within the body. Canine acupuncture is a fast growing alternative in western societies for treatment of dog related illnesses.

It is rumoured that before acupuncture was discovered by observing how lame animals and war horses recovered after certain parts of their bodies were punctured or injured. Therefore, acupuncture's main role is to stimulate healing, fast recovery, and increasing the strength of the body's immune system.

The treatment consists of inserting extremely fine needles into specified areas of the body to stimulate nerves and increase overall blood flow. Regular treatment of acupuncture is essential to help balance the body's internal

energy flow and communication cycles.

When using this treatment on dogs they may become a little uncomfortable initially. After the needles are inserted and the dog realizes it is okay, they may become quite relaxed and even may fall asleep. The number of needles used and the techniques has a lot to do with the dog's medical history, case history, and duration of treatments. Treatments can last from 30 seconds to half an hour.

The treatments also vary according to the illness being worked on and the patient's tolerance level. Sometimes six sessions are needed, other times one or two may work. The trained professional will use their judgement in how many treatment the dog needs, how far to space them, and if the dog may need continual treatments for other issues.

Illnesses that may need to be treated with acupuncture include physical or emotional issues the dog may be facing. The most popular treatments may include weight control, weight management, depression, hypertension, gastrointestinal disorders, relaxation treatments (for travel), paralysis, allergies, pain, arthritis, musculoskeletal problems, respiratory problems, reproductive issues, hormonal problems, and skin problems. The treatments may be once or more than once and may require one to two needles, or a whole package of sterilized needles.

The effects of the treatments may last several days, or several hours and the dogs may remain in a relaxed state

for longer periods of time. After a few treatments these effects will gradually last longer and longer until the dog's illness is under control or eliminated. Over time, the dog will be more active and improve the dog's reaction to outside stimuli.

The widely growing trend toward acupuncture for pets, such as dogs, is a fast growing market for veterinarians and other pet health aids in the industry.

Dog owners are increasingly beginning to rely on acupuncture to aid their pet's health and emotional issues. More and more people are beginning to accept the therapeutic benefits of canine acupuncture to maintain or achieve pet health. Just as in human health, pet health can be greatly improved by acupuncture.

Reproduced by:



You can get more reports like this along with access to specialist dog related eBooks, helpful articles, care guides and much more by becoming a member of the **K9 Magazine Premier Club**

www.K9Magazine.com/join

Further Resources & Useful Links

- www.dogjoints.co.uk (dog joint supplements)
- www.dogtips.co (general canine tips)
- www.dognutrition.org.uk (the link between nutrition & joint health)

© All rights reserved by respective authors and publishers.

Legal Notice

© [Total Pet Publishing](#) All rights reserved.

This work is copyright protected along with all derivative works of all referenced authors and contributors. This content is for personal use only. You cannot amend, distribute, sell, use, quote or paraphrase any part or the content within this ebook without the consent of the author or individual copyright owner. Legal action will be pursued if this is breached. Please appreciate the hard work done.

Disclaimer Notice:

This book is for personal use only. It should serve as a reference only with no guarantee to any personal or financial gains. Results from usage of materials described in this book varies. By reading this material, you agree that the author is not liable on any consequences arising from usage of the information contained within this book. The reader assumes all responsibility for outcomes related to the implementation of advice in this manuscript.

About the Authors:

This book has been carefully prepared, researched and edited by a team of canine information experts. Our authors are, first and foremost, passionate about dogs and share a mutual satisfaction in assisting people who are experiencing problems with their pets. Our works have been read by more than 12 million pet owners globally.

