

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Chinese Medicine Theory?

Chinese Medicine is based on the Daoist worldview that the body is a microcosm of the larger, surrounding universe. As such, the cosmic laws and forces that govern the external world also govern the body's internal environment. Just as life-energy or "Qi" is an innate force of the universe, it too is a fundamental force of the body, driving its every action and transformation. Yin-Yang theory, which is central to Daoist philosophy, also features prominently in Chinese Medicine. This theory describes how opposing forces of the universe - light and dark, hot and cold, etc,- mutually create and transform each other, and play a key role in the characterization of physiological function and disease.

In Chinese Medicine theory, disease is understood as an imbalance in the body, and diagnosis proceeds through identifying the underlying "pattern" of disharmony. Pattern diagnosis differs from conventional Western medical diagnosis in that it takes into account not only disease signs but how these signs relate to the individual patient. Thus, TCVM practitioners will consider the temperament, sex, age, activity, and environment of an animal along with the animal's particular disease signs. This approach stems from the belief that the body is an interconnected system of forces and functions so that disease and disharmony must be examined with respect to the whole patient. For this reason, Chinese Medicine is often regarded as more holistic than conventional Western Medicine.

What can I expect during the Holistic Consultation?

The holistic consultation appointment can last anywhere from 60-90 minutes. Dr. Colleen Terry will discuss your pet's medical history, lifestyle, primary concerns, etc. and work with you to create a treatment plan that is best for your pet. This plan might include: acupuncture, electro-acupuncture, laser therapy, herbal medications, medical manipulation, and more. Alternative therapy recommendations can be used in conjunction with Western medicine practices.



call to schedule a
holistic
consultation!



Colleen Terry, DVM, CVA, CVMMP
veterinarian, acupuncturist, herbalist, medical manipulation

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Mon/Wed/Fri: 7:30am-6pm

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Saturday: 8am-2pm

Sunday: closed

Cold Laser Therapy

Laser therapy uses lasers or LED light to encourage healing and improved function at the cellular level. Treatment is painless and is useful in a variety of ailments, particularly in decreasing pain and inflammation and improving wound healing. This treatment modality provides a non-invasive, pain-free, surgery-free, and drug-free remedy which can be used to treat a variety of conditions.



INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE & HOLISTIC MODALITIES



Herbal Medication



What are herbal medications?

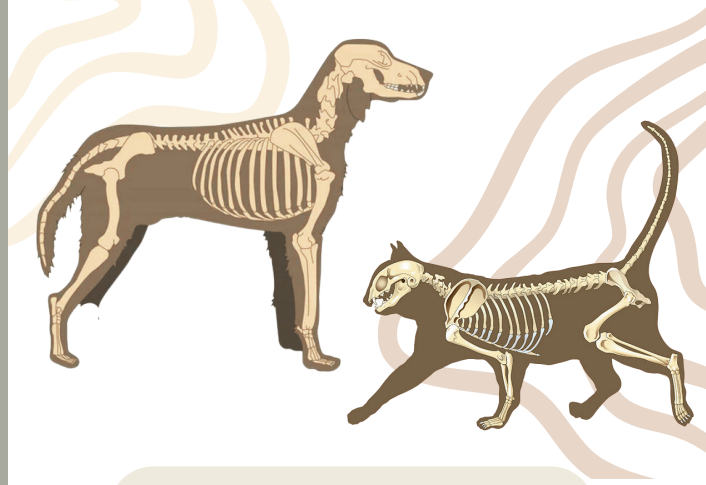
Herbs can be used alone or to enhance other treatment modalities like acupuncture and food therapy. Herbs can be especially useful for patients suffering from chronic conditions that require long-term therapy. Most herbs can be used in conjunction with western medications or solely if a patient is not responding to conventional medicines. If any side effects are to be encountered, gastrointestinal upset are the most common.

Western vs Chinese Medicine

While Dr. Terry is trained in conventional medicine, she also understands that some disease processes lend themselves to treatment with other methods. Because of this need, she is proud to provide Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) as an alternative therapy option for our patients.

Whereas conventional Western medicine tends to focus on the control and elimination of symptoms, Chinese medicine is about getting to the root of the process to restore balance.

TCVM is based upon the principle of balance between systems. As in life, health is all about balance — your pet's body is designed to be a perfectly tuned living organism. Properly practicing TCVM relies upon understanding the interconnectedness between the mind, body, society, environment, and even the universe.



Chiropractic Care

What is veterinary medical manipulation?

Veterinary Medical Manipulation (VMM) is a manual therapy that uses motion palpation to find joint restrictions and alleviates them using quick and controlled joint adjustments. Correcting these joint restrictions restores normal range of motion, relaxes the muscles and relieves pain of a restricted joint. This improves circulation, neurologic function, and immune system performance.

This sounds a lot like chiropractic care... is it?

VMM is essentially chiropractic care for your pets. The reason it cannot be called as such is because a veterinarian, rather than a chiropractor, is the one performing the adjustment.

What conditions can VMM be used for?

- Joint pain and stiffness
- Muscle injury or spasm
- Hind end weakness / neurologic deficits
- Neck or back pain
- Sway or arched back
- Post-operative care
- Improved athletic performance
- Senior comfort and maintenance
- Urinary or fecal incontinence
- Congenital/structural abnormalities
- Difficulty chewing or swallowing
- Seizures
- Anxiety
- Obsessive licking of limbs or joints
- Prevention of musculoskeletal injury
- General wellness

Acupuncture

Is there any scientific evidence on how acupuncture works?

Modern research shows that acupoints are located in areas where there is a high density of free nerve endings, mast cells, small arterioles, and lymphatic vessels. A great number of studies indicate that stimulation of acupoints induces the release of beta-endorphins, serotonin, and other neurotransmitters.

Is acupuncture safe?

Yes! Acupuncture is a very safe medical procedure when administered by a qualified practitioner. Very few negative effects have been found in clinical cases.

How long does each treatment take?

Each session may take 20 - 45 minutes; the first session typically takes longer than follow-up appointments.

How soon can we expect results?

Some results can be seen immediately but others will require several treatments. Generally, a minimum of 3-5 treatments 1-2 weeks apart for chronic conditions are needed before one can expect notable improvement.

When is acupuncture recommended?

Clinical trials indicate that acupuncture therapy can be effective in the following conditions: musculoskeletal problems (back pain, OA, degenerative joint disease), neurological disorders (IVDD, facial/radial nerve paralysis), gastrointestinal disorders (diarrhea, gastric ulcers, vomiting, constipation, impactions), quality of life/cancer/hospice care, and other chronic conditions (skin problems, asthma, cough, uveitis, behavioral problems, renal failure, chronic liver diseases, Cushing's disease, geriatric weakness, and more!)

