

Governor's Avenue Animal Hospital Newsletter

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Spring 2010



Raffle Winners!

Our monthly raffle winners are:

- Antionette Gray in January 2010. She selected a plaque from the GAAH collection.
- Geri Devern in February 2010. She selected a bone picture frame.
- Edna Boisselle in March 2010. She selected a trivet with a dog on it.
- Terry Harker in April 2010. She selected a dog note pad and pen set.

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Acupuncture in Animals

Meryl Kern, DVM

Veterinary acupuncture can be traced back to the Shang Dynasty in the 16th to 11th century B.C. Acupuncture first gained significant attention in the United States in 1972. A reporter, James Reston, traveling with President Nixon to China had to receive an emergency appendectomy while there. He was so impressed with the pain relief he received with acupuncture after the operation that he wrote an article on it afterwards. In 1997, the NIH formally recognized acupuncture as a mainstream medicine healing option. The US Army trains medics in acupuncture for pain relief for use in battle or major disasters. Forty Department of Defense doctors are licensed acupuncturists.

The ancient Chinese believed that Qi (pronounced chee) flowed through the body maintaining a balance. Any blockage in the flow of Qi is what creates pain and disease. Thus the idea of acupuncture is to stimulate points that allow the flow of Qi to be re-established. Or to those of us that the idea of Qi seems a little far fetched, abnormal blood flow and nerve conduction in an area of the body will similarly cause pain and disease.

Acupuncture points are located in areas where there are many nerve endings and small blood vessels. Stimulation of these points causes the release of endorphins, serotonin and other neurotransmitters. People describe the sensation of an acupuncture needle as tingling, swelling, or a sense of heaviness. Animals often show a twitch of skin upon insertion of the needle. Most animals don't mind the treatment and many will even fall asleep.

Acupuncture needles are thin stainless steel needles. In addition to a "dry needle", acupoints may be stimulated with a small amount of a liquid B vitamin or sarapin. Electroacupuncture – a small electrical current – and moxibustion – to warm the needle and thus the acupoint may also be used depending on the problem being treated. Herbal medicines may also be used to augment therapy. Combined therapy is often the most effective. In addition lower dosages of your pets current medications may be needed, lowering the chance of side effects.

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Sessions may last from 20 minutes to an hour. A minimum of three weekly treatments are recommended to assess response to therapy. Some problems will respond with one treatment alone and other long-standing problems may require additional treatments or maintenance therapy (i.e once monthly). A plan tailored to your particular animal and what problem is being treated will be made at the initial consultation.

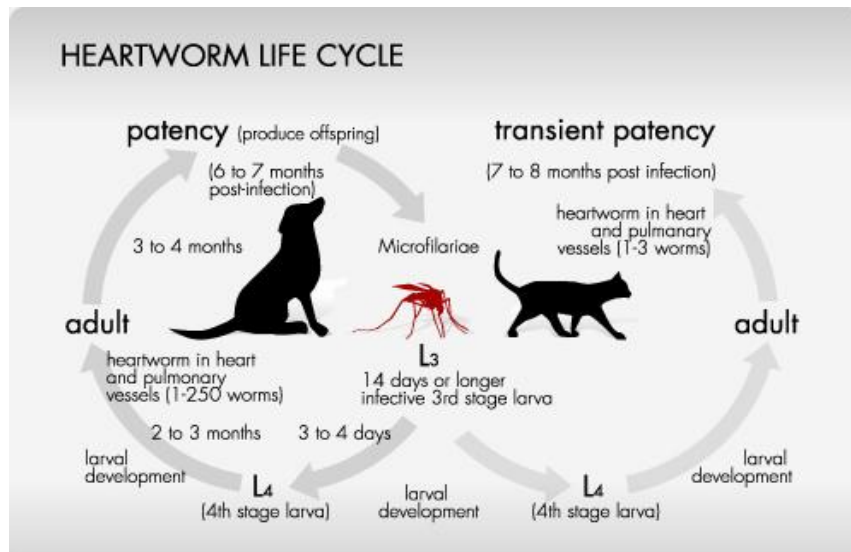
How do you decide if acupuncture is right for your animal? There are a number of ailments that acupuncture can help. The most well known use for acupuncture is for pain control. It is excellent for muscle soreness, back pain, and arthritis. However it also treats a variety of gastrointestinal, kidney, skin, respiratory, and neurologic conditions. In fact animals that have been partially paralyzed can regain a greater degree of use of their limbs and faster with acupuncture than with medication.

Dog and cat ailments: hip dysplasia, arthritis, kidney failure, nausea and inappetence (commonly used in people cancer patients that get nauseous due to chemo), diarrhea, fever, eye problems including ulcers, infertility, seizures, IBD, UTI, resuscitation, nerve problems and paralysis, disc disease, constipation.

Horse ailments: lameness, compensatory soreness, arthritis, fever, eye problems including ulcers, infertility, stomach ulcers, head shaking, TMJ, chronic diarrhea, retained placenta, anhydrosis, laryngeal paralysis, laminitis, navicular, colic.

For racehorses and other performance horses: hock pain, stifle pain, hip pain, shoulder pain, neck pain, back pain, knee pain, and foot pain! Also, calming, thumps, throat inflammation, lung infection, throat problems, EPM, anemia, immune stimulation, and relaxing the muscles after a chiropractic adjustment.

We are pleased to announce that we now offer acupuncture and herbal therapy for cats, dogs, and horses. Dr. Meryl Kern has just completed the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) course. If you are interested in setting up a session please call us at (302) 734-5588 for your dogs and cats or at (302) 735-4735 for your horses!



Heartworm disease

DIFFICULT TO TREAT, EASY TO PREVENT

Tom Marvel and Toseef

Did you know??

- All dogs and cats are at risk of heartworm infestation!
- Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes and found in all 50 states of America
- Heartworm disease can kill! Even one heartworm can lead to sudden death.
- Treatment for Heartworm disease is traumatic, expensive, risky, and lengthy.
- Heartworm disease is virtually 100% preventable.
- Prevention for heartworm disease is effective, easy and economical.
- Yearly testing for heartworm is strongly recommended by all veterinarians.
- Simple blood test at veterinarian's office will confirm your pet is heartworm free.
- Please schedule your pet for heartworm testing and prevention at Governor's Ave Animal Hospital.