

# ACUPUNCTURE



**Kleintierpraxis Kreis 2**  
Mutschellenstrasse 77, 8038 Zürich

Dear Pet Owner

We are proud and happy to announce a new inhouse treatment for your pet's health. We do offer the opportunity for acupuncture therapy in our clinic.

### **What is acupuncture?**

Acupuncture may be defined as the insertion of needles into specific points on the body to produce a healing response and to regain its balance. Today, acupuncture points may also be stimulated using an acupuncture laser device. Acupuncture has been used in veterinary practice in China for thousands of years and is now all around the world to treat many ailments, either alone or in conjunction with Western medicine. The Chinese also use acupuncture as preventative medicine.

### **How does acupuncture work?**

Acupuncture can assist the body to heal itself by affecting certain physiological changes: it can stimulate nerves, increase blood circulation, relieve muscle spasm, and cause the release of hormones, such as endorphins (one of the body's pain control chemicals) and cortisol (a natural steroid).

### **For which conditions is acupuncture indicated?**

Acupuncture is a valuable therapy in the management of chronic pain and for our geriatric patients, improving life quality in these animals. It may help to reduce the required dose of medications or sometimes even make them unnecessary. Acupuncture can be used for a large variety of conditions as an addition and sometimes an alternative to classic veterinary medicine. It is most important that before acupuncture your pet has undergone a profine medical examination with an exact diagnosis through a veterinarian.

Some examples for acupuncture treatments:

- Acute and chronic musculoskeletal pain (arthrosis, spondylosis intervertebral disk disease, back pain, HD/ED)
- Recovery support
- Respiratory problems (e.g. feline asthma, chronic cough)
- Immunodeficiency (e.g. Allergies, feline Asthma, Hypersensitivity reaction)

- Skin problems (lick granulomas and allergic dermatitis, chronic ear inflammation)
- Gastrointestinal problems (diarrhea, vomiting, flatulence, constipation)
- urogenital problems (incontinence, supportive care for kidney patients)
- Selected reproductive and obstetric problems
- some behaviour problems such as restlessness, anxiety
- neurologic problems such as traumatic nerve injury, epilepsy
- scar filtering

### **Is acupuncture painful?**

Depending on the animal's individual sensitivity, the insertion of acupuncture needles may be a little uncomfortable. Once the needles are in place, there should be no pain. Most animals become very relaxed and may even become sleepy. Nevertheless, acupuncture treatment may cause some sensation, presumed to be those such as tingles, cramps, or numbness which can occur in humans and which may be uncomfortable to some animals. There is always the alternative of the use of laser acupuncture, where a laser specifically created for the stimulation of acupuncture points is used instead of needles. This is absolutely pain free and we do offer and recommend this type of acupuncture especially for nervous, sensitive and scared animals.

### **How safe is acupuncture for animals?**

Acupuncture is one of the safest forms of medical treatment for animals when it is administered by a properly trained veterinarian. Acupuncture should never be administered without a proper veterinary medical diagnosis and an ongoing assessment of the patient's condition by a licensed veterinarian. This is critical because acupuncture is capable of masking pain or other clinical signs and may delay proper veterinary medical diagnosis once treatment has begun. Elimination of pain may lead to increased activity on the part of the animal, thus delaying healing or causing the original condition to worsen.

Side effects of acupuncture are rare. An animal's condition may seem worse for up to 48 hours after a treatment. Other animals become lethargic or sleepy for 24 hours. These effects are an indication that some physiological changes are developing, and they are most often followed by an improvement in the animal's condition.

## **How can my pet benefit from acupuncture?**

The success of the treatment will vary according to the condition being treated and the number and frequency of acupuncture treatments. The length and frequency of the treatments depends on the condition of the patient. A simple problem may require only one treatment, whereas more severe or chronic ailments may need several treatments. As mentioned before a correct diagnostic plan, supporting multimodal pain management is crucial for chronic long-term patients and will bring relief to those pets.

We are happy to personally answer your questions concerning acupuncture in house treatment, appointment times or prices.

**Sincerely your Kleintierpraxis Kreis 2**

*“It does not matter whether medicine be old or new, so long as it brings about a cure. It matters not whether theories be eastern or western, so long as they prove to be true”*

*Jen Hsou Lin, DVM, PhD*

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