



PAWSITIVE PRESS

Caring for Pets with Love & Kindness Since 1977



Willa Grace enjoying her acupuncture treatment at the AHOD.



Get a \$10-off Coupon

ATTENTION CURRENT CLIENTS! Refer a friend to the Animal Hospital of Dunedin and receive a \$10-off coupon after their first visit. All they have to do is mention YOUR name when we ask how they heard about us when they call to book.

Pet Care Made Easy with the PetDesk App!

Get 24/7 access to your pet's vaccine records, appointment requests, prescription refills, and more right from your phone! Just download the free app at: download.petdesk.com, and create an account with the email address we have on file for you. The app will then sync your information overnight, so you can start using it the following day!



What is acupuncture and how can it benefit my pet?

BY KATHERINE RESTREPO, DVM

What is Acupuncture?

Acupuncture is the placement of needles into specific points to cause a healing effect. It is commonly used with conventional (Western Medicine) to help in healing multiple conditions such as arthritis, intervertebral disk disease, pain, weakness, neurologic disorders and particular cancers, to name a few. Acupuncture is a practice that has been used in China for thousands of years. It has been used in most species all around the world with great outcome. *Continued on page 2...*

1

FEATURED

Acupuncture at the AHOD

2

DID YOU KNOW?

Why it's so important to get your pet's annual fecal exam

3

SEPT. COUPONS

- > Dental Cleaning
- > Preventatives

Acupuncture from Page 1...

There are several forms of acupuncture that can be used such as:

- Dry needling (Only sterile needles placed)
- Electro acupuncture (Sterile needles connected to mild current similar to a tens unit)
- Moxibustion (Placing heat of herb near or around acupuncture needle/point)
- Acupressure (Pressing on certain points)
- Aquapuncture (Administration of vitamins, saline or medications into acupuncture points)

Is acupuncture safe for my pet?

Acupuncture is virtually painless and pets often fall asleep while receiving treatment. Endorphins are released when needles are placed which causes pets to relax. Side effects to acupuncture are extremely rare, making it a very safe practice. Acupuncture should only be done by a licensed veterinarian who has received proper, comprehensive training. Diagnostic tests may be performed prior to starting acupuncture to ensure there are no concurrent diseases which may alter the treatment plan.

Is my pet a candidate for acupuncture?

In order to assess if your pet is a candidate we schedule an integrative medicine consult in which we discuss acupuncture and your pet's health needs in more detail.

Endorphins are released when needles are placed which causes pets to relax.

We examine your pet to see if acupuncture would help their particular problems and, if needed, perform further diagnostics. We will also discuss expectations, since different diseases can take different treatment protocols.

What to expect during my first acupuncture session?

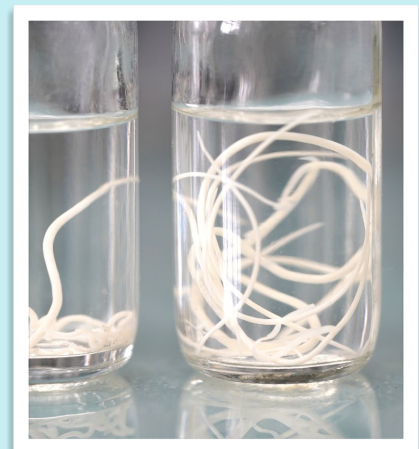
The first acupuncture session is usually the longest, lasting about an hour. At this time we will perform an Eastern physical exam and ask questions regarding your pet's behavior at home. This allows us to formulate a TCVM (Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine) diagnosis. After a diagnosis is made, specific points are chosen that are tailored to your pet's specific needs. At that point we will also recommend herbal medicine to round out the treatment plan. Acupuncture appointments are typically once weekly for the first 4-6 weeks and then are spaced out at longer intervals. It is very commonly noted that pets become more and more relaxed at subsequent acupuncture visits due to the release of natural chemicals from the brain during therapy.

How do I get started?

Acupuncture, along with Western medicine, can make a great combination to help your pet's needs. If you are considering acupuncture, call us today to schedule an integrative medicine consultation so we can start the journey toward health and healing.

Did You Know? — By Michael Bartholomew, DVM, MS

Roundworms and hookworms are two very common intestinal parasites seen in pets. They are more prevalent in puppies and kittens but can be seen in older pets as well if not on a regular preventative. Both worms develop from eggs and infect the gastrointestinal tract of the pet. They are transmitted in a number of ways including mother's milk and fecal-oral transmission through contaminated soil. Some pets may show no signs of infestation but have infections that can lead to serious complications including death. **As these parasites are zoonotic, meaning they can affect humans as well, it is important to have routine fecal screenings and keep pets on regular heartworm preventatives** that also will prevent infection with these parasites.



The easiest way to identify if your pet has *roundworms* is with a fecal exam which can be done at any appointment.

SEPTEMBER COUPONS

Present these coupons during any qualified appointment scheduled during the month of September!



10% Off DENTAL CLEANING

Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental lab work. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase.

EXPIRES 9/30/23



10% Off PREVENTATIVES

Stop by and pick them up today! 727-733-9351

This coupon is good for 10% off the purchase of *Heartgard*, *Nexgard*, OR *Simparica Trio* when you buy a one-year supply (12 doses). May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts.

Pet must be a current patient and have an up-to-date heartworm test.

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

EXPIRES 9/30/23