



# Acupuncture in Pets

Acupuncture is a medical treatment that involves inserting needles into different areas on the body. This practice has been around over thousands of years. Recent studies have shown that humans are not the only ones who can benefit from acupuncture. In fact, many researchers believe that pets can reap the same health benefits from acupuncture as humans. Below are some of the ways pets can benefit from acupuncture:

## Alleviate Pain

Acupuncture helps stimulate the release of endorphins. Endorphins are natural-pain killing hormones. They are very similar to opioids, which are medications used to help alleviate pain. Therefore, acupuncture can be very beneficial for pets that suffer from painful conditions, such as arthritis.

## Treat Skin Conditions

Pets that suffer from skin conditions, such as allergic dermatitis, can benefit from acupuncture. Acupuncture can help improve circulation, which helps promote healing. It can also help ease the discomfort of skin condition by reducing the itching.

## Ease Digestive Issues

Acupuncture can help digestive problems, such as diarrhea and nausea, by increasing blood flow to the area. There has also been evidence to suggest that acupuncture can help promote healthier digestion.

## Ease Side Effects of Cancer Treatments

Chemotherapy and radiation are often used on pets that suffer from cancer. However, these treatments are likely to cause side effects, such as fatigue, pain and nausea. Acupuncture may help alleviate the side effects of those conditions. That is why many veterinarians recommend acupuncture for pets that are receiving radiation and chemotherapy.

## Treat Musculoskeletal Problems

Because acupuncture helps promote healing, it may help treat musculoskeletal problems, such as hip dysplasia. Some veterinarians use acupuncture as a part of the rehabilitation process. Acupuncture can also help treat nerve injuries.

## Very Safe

Not only is acupuncture effective for treating many conditions in pets, but it is also safe. When it is performed by someone who is licensed to administer acupuncture, the chances of suffering side effects are low. This is one of the reasons many veterinarians are choosing to take a more holistic approach and incorporate acupuncture into their practice. In fact, in 2012, there were 300 new members in the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture.

If you think acupuncture may be right for your pet, then you should consult with your veterinarian. It is very safe and can treat a variety of problems, including pain, musculoskeletal problems, skin conditions and digestive problems. It may also ease the side effects of cancer treatments.