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## **Acupunctural treatment for Pets**

### **What is Acupuncture?**

The term Acupuncture is derived from the Latin words *acus* (needle) and *punctura* (to puncture). It is a Chinese way of treating a variety of illnesses and has been used to cure both humans and animals for the last 4000 years.

By stimulating specific areas on the body, biochemical statuses are changed, body balance is re-established and dysfunctions are dissolved. This is achieved by using different methods like inserting needles or gently warming these areas (moxibustion).

It is essential to know that an Acupunctural Treatment can change disorders and malfunction but that it cannot heal what has been destroyed. In severe cases of hip dysplasia (HD) for example an Acupunctural Treatment will not heal lesions in the joint capsule or the cartilage. What it can do is significantly lessen the resulting pain from those lesions, reduce the swelling of muscles and tissue and increase the blood flow.

### **Which illnesses can be treated by using Acupuncture?**

In Europe, Acupuncture is predominantly used if pharmaceuticals fail or reveal strong side-effects or if an operation cannot be risked. In China on the other hand, Acupuncture is often applied as the one and only treatment.

Positive results have been shown in the treatment of these alignments:

Disorders of the locomotory system (e.g. hip dysplasia (HD), elbow dysplasia (ED), arthritis, herniated vertebral discs, spondylosis, blockades, traumas)

Diseases of the digestive system (e.g. colic, chronic constipation, diarrhoea, vomiting...)

Itching and lesions in the skin ('Hot spots', allergies, eczema etc.)

Respiratory problems (e.g. asthma, cat flu)

Behavioural disorders (e.g. uncleanliness, aggressive behaviour, anxiety, libido problems)

Acupunctural treatment has positive effects preliminary to birth, in geriatric pets and on the immune system.

### **Does an Acupunctural Treatment hurt? How does my pet react to it?**

An Acupunctural Treatment is done with thin sterile needles. Your pet might experience a short painful sensation while the needle penetrates certain sensitive areas in the skin. Once it is in place though, most of the treated animals relax and might even fall asleep during treatment.

### **How long does an average treatment take?**

A treatment can take 10 seconds or up to 30 minutes depending on the cause for the illness and the used method. Pets are usually treated once or even up to three times a week for four to six weeks. A positive reaction can often be found after the first 4 to 6 treatments and sometimes even at an earlier stage.