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Integrative Healing Veterinary Clinic & Mobile Services (I.H.V.C.M.S.)

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What is Integrative Veterinary Medicine?

Integrative veterinary medicine is a comprehensive medical approach to pet and animal health care that combines conventional medicine and complementary/alternative therapies. This type of veterinary practice focuses on treating the whole animal, the partnership between the client and the veterinarian, and the use of all appropriate therapeutic options to achieve optimal wellness for your pet or animal. It encompasses many different therapies, including acupuncture, spinal manipulation therapy ("animal chiropractic"), homeopathy, herbal therapy, nutrition, and reiki. The development of a treatment plan takes into account the whole picture of the animal, environment, disease patterns, diet, and relationship with the owner. This integrative approach to veterinary medicine is designed to minimize adverse effects, maximize successful treatment outcomes, and improve the quality of life of the patient. While



Alternative therapies can be complementary to and used in parallel with the Western conventional treatments you may be the most comfortable with - hence the term "integrative."

many conditions benefit from these therapies, there are times when conventional Western medicine is essential. Patients that require conventional therapies are referred back to their regular Veterinarian for treatment. I.H.V.C.M.S. does not provide any emergency or routine services, administer vaccinations, or perform surgery. Dr. Theisen becomes part of your veterinary team, and will gladly work together with your conventional veterinarian in developing the best integrative treatment plan for your pet or animal. Integrative Healing Veterinary Clinic and Mobile Services provides integrative treatment for both large and small animals, including horses, dogs, cats, llamas, alpacas, goats, and potbelly pigs in eastern North Carolina and surrounding areas.

Acupuncture & Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM)



Acupuncture is defined as the stimulation of a specific point on the body with a specific method, resulting in a therapeutic homeostatic effect. Its techniques have been developed and refined for over 3,000 years. The ancient Chinese discovered the health of the body depends on the state of *Qi*. *Qi* is your life force or vital energy, and has 2 opposing forms: *Yin* and *Yang*. *Qi* should be flowing at all times through channels called meridians, maintaining a balance of

Yin and *Yang*. When the flow of *Qi* is disrupted, the balance of *Yin* and *Yang* can be lost, and disease may occur. Pain is defined as the blockage of *Qi*. Acupuncture stimulation resolves this blockage, enabling the body to heal itself. Studies have shown that stimulation of acupoints induces the release of beta-endorphins, serotonin, and other neurotransmitters. Traditional Chinese medicine views each animal as a unique energetic being, with individual clinical signs and health. By stimulating the acupuncture points that are in or associated with the affected areas or functions,

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Acupuncture...Continued

balance can be restored and disease resolved.

Acupuncture can be used in the treatment of:

- **Musculoskeletal Problems:** muscle soreness, disc problems, back/neck pain, arthritis, IVDD
- **Neurological Disorders:** seizures, facial and radial nerve paralysis
- **Gastrointestinal Disorders:** diarrhea, vomiting, gastric ulcers
- **Chronic Conditions:** skin allergies, hypothyroidism, Cushings/PPID laminitis/founder, anhidrosis, heaves, cough, respiratory issues
- **Specific Organ Function:** kidney, liver, etc.
- Sacropelvic Problems
- Prevention of Disease

Acupuncture and herbal therapy are typically used together, as the combined effect is greater than using one of them alone.

Acupuncture will help balance the flow of *Qi* throughout the body's

meridians, while herbals will help nurture those meridians and promote their function on a daily basis. Chinese herbs are especially helpful in the treatment of chronic disease. They can be used to relieve pain, improve and restore organ function, and support and strengthen the immune system. They are directed at the root cause of an illness to correct it, and are not given to control symptoms alone. Clinical results from Chinese herbs can be seen in as little as 3 days to up to 2 weeks.



Ssource: <http://1gambir.blogspot.com/2011/01/what-is-herbal-medicine.html>

Spinal Manipulation Therapy, AKA "Animal Chiropractic"



Spinal manipulation therapy (i.e. "animal chiropractic") involves the relationship between the nervous system and the spinal column and the critical role this relationship has in the maintenance of overall health. The nervous system is

responsible for initiating and coordinating all signals of movement by stimulating the muscles that are attached to the skeletal system. Anything adversely affecting the nervous system will have detrimental effects that will resonate throughout the entire body. The command centers of the nervous system are the brain and spinal cord which are protected by the spine. The spine is a complex framework of bones (vertebra), ligaments, muscles and nerves. If the movement and biomechanics of the vertebra become dysfunctional (also referred to as misalignment or "subluxation"), it can interfere with the performance of the nerves that are branching off of the spinal cord and going to the all of the muscles and organs. As this occurs, your animal can lose normal mobility; resulting in stiffness, tension, pain, and even organ dysfunction.

A *chiropractic adjustment* is a low amplitude, high velocity thrust that is directed at a specific articulation to correct a "subluxation."

Chiropractic medicine is designed to stimulate a natural healing response and return the body to homeostasis as quickly as possible without harmful side effects.

Chiropractic care can be used in the treatment of:

- Gait Abnormalities
- Neck/Back Pain
- Muscle Asymmetry
- Pelvic Rotation
- Unexplained Lameness
- Arthritis
- Performance Enhancement



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