

Veterinary Acupuncture Review Papers from the last 15 years – from Pubmed - www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez

[Vet Rec.](#) 2009 Apr 4;164(14):418-24.

[Systematic review of the management of canine osteoarthritis.](#)

[Sanderson RO](#), [Beata C](#), [Flipo RM](#), [Genevois JP](#), [Macias C](#), [Tacke S](#), [Vezzoni A](#), [Innes JF](#).

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This review assesses the evidence for the efficacy of therapies used in the management of osteoarthritis in dogs on the basis of papers published in peer-reviewed journals in English between 1985 and July 2007. Sixty-eight papers were identified and evaluated. They considered four alternative therapies, one use of functional food, two intra-articular agents, six nutraceutical agents, 21 pharmacological agents, two physical therapies, three surgical techniques and two combinations of weight control. There was a high level of comfort (strong evidence) for the efficacy of carprofen, firocoxib and meloxicam, and a moderate level of comfort for the efficacy of etodolac in modifying the signs of osteoarthritis. There was a moderate level of comfort for the efficacy of glycosaminoglycan polysulphate, licofelone, elk velvet antler and a functional food containing green-lipped mussel for the modification of the structures involved in the disease. There was weak or no evidence in support of the use of doxycycline, electrostimulated acupuncture, extracorporeal shockwave therapy, gold wire acupuncture, hyaluronan, pentosan polysulphate, P54FP (extract of turmeric), tiaprofenic acid or tibial plateau levelling osteotomy.

[Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract.](#) 2008 Nov;38(6):1365-414, vii-viii.

[Neuropathic pain in dogs and cats: if only they could tell us if they hurt.](#)

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Neuropathic pain is difficult to diagnose in veterinary patients because they are unable to verbalize their pain. By assuming that neuropathic pain may exist based on the history of events that each patient has experienced, a focused client history and neurologic examination may identify a lesion resulting in persistent or spontaneous pain. Once neuropathic pain is diagnosed, a trial analgesic or acupuncture session(s) should be prescribed with instructions for owners to observe behavior. Dosing of the analgesic can be titrated to the patient's needs while avoiding adverse effects. When a particular analgesic may be ineffectual, an alternate class should be tried. As research into the neurobiologic mechanisms of neuropathic pain continues, specific therapies for its management should eventually appear in the human clinical setting and subsequently be investigated for veterinary clinical use.

[Theriogenology.](#) 2008 Aug;70(3):430-4. Epub 2008 Jun 11.

[Use of acupuncture in equine reproduction.](#)

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The goal of this review is to provide evidence supporting the physiologic basis for the use of acupuncture as a treatment in equine reproduction, and to discuss current uses of acupuncture for the treatment of anestrus, urine pooling, uterine infection and/or fluid, infertility, maintenance of pregnancy, cryptorchidism, musculoskeletal pain, and poor libido in stallions. The benefits achieved through acupuncture treatment are thought to be a result of hormonal regulation, altered smooth muscle motility, and general stress and/or pain relief from musculoskeletal or environmental conditions.

[J Am Anim Hosp Assoc.](#) 2006 Jul-Aug;42(4):244-8.

What acupuncture can and cannot treat.

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Acupuncture has been used for over 2000 years to treat a variety of diseases. It is safe and effective, especially for conditions such as pain, geriatric diseases, and exercise-related diseases. There are 361 acupuncture points located throughout the body on meridians. Meridians are the energetic channels that connect all the points to each other. These points are stimulated by various means to produce a physiological effect in the body. All points have various functions throughout the body that can be used to treat different diseases. Certain precautions must be taken when treating weak, debilitated, or pregnant animals.

[J Vet Intern Med.](#) 2006 May-Jun;20(3):480-8.

Effectiveness of acupuncture in veterinary medicine: systematic review.

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Acupuncture is a popular complementary treatment option in human medicine. Increasingly, owners also seek acupuncture for their animals. The aim of the systematic review reported here was to summarize and assess the clinical evidence for or against the effectiveness of acupuncture in veterinary medicine. Systematic searches were conducted on Medline, Embase, Amed, Cinahl, Japana Centra Revuo Medicina and Chikusan Bunken Kensaku. Hand-searches included conference proceedings, bibliographies, and contact with experts and veterinary acupuncture associations. There were no restrictions regarding the language of publication. All controlled clinical trials testing acupuncture in any condition of domestic animals were included. Studies using laboratory animals were excluded. Titles and abstracts of identified articles were read, and hard copies were obtained. Inclusion and exclusion of studies, data extraction, and validation were performed independently by two reviewers. Methodologic quality was evaluated by means of the Jadad score. Fourteen randomized controlled trials and 17 nonrandomized controlled trials met our criteria and were, therefore, included. The methodologic quality of these trials was variable but, on average, was low. For cutaneous pain and diarrhea, encouraging evidence exists that warrants further investigation in rigorous trials. Single studies reported some positive intergroup differences for spinal cord injury, Cushing's syndrome, lung function, hepatitis, and rumen

acidosis. These trials require independent replication. On the basis of the findings of this systematic review, there is no compelling evidence to recommend or reject acupuncture for any condition in domestic animals. Some encouraging data do exist that warrant further investigation in independent rigorous trials.

[Clin Tech Small Anim Pract.](#) 2002 Nov;17(4):151-7.

[Clinical pain management techniques for cats.](#)

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Although pain management is an emerging and popular topic in veterinary medicine, use of analgesics in cats has received little attention relative to their canine counterparts. Some of the difficulty lies in assessment of whether or not a cat is in pain. Simple observation of a cat in a cage relies upon overt expression of pain, and is often inaccurate. Pain scales have been developed that allow a semiquantitative evaluation of the degree of pain an animal may be experiencing. However, treating pain based upon observation of the painful state is less effective than anticipating and preemptively treating pain. This article reviews specific methods for preemptively treating and alleviating pain in the cat. The traditional approach to pain management involves drug administration. Specific categories of agents used in cats include opioids, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories, or alpha-2 agonists. Other modalities of pain management, which are also reviewed, include use of local anesthetic drugs for local and regional analgesia, as well as acupuncture.

[Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract.](#) 2002 Dec;18(3):631-6, ix.

[Use of complementary veterinary medicine in the geriatric horse.](#)

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The use of complementary and alternative veterinary medicine continues to grow within the veterinary community. As more clients seek out complementary and alternative medicine for their own health care, they begin to seek out these forms of therapy for their animals. For the equine practitioner, this includes those clients with geriatric animals. It is hoped that this article provides some insight into what conditions may be helped with CVM (complementary veterinary medicine) and when an equine practitioner may want to consider CVM as a form

[Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract.](#) 2002 Apr;18(1):83-105, vii.

[Nontraditional approaches to pain management.](#)

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The word nontraditional in the context of this article implies those modalities not normally taught in veterinary medical schools. This word has the same definition of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) as put forth by the Harvard medical school. CAM is a field of medicine that has enjoyed a recent increase in popularity in both human and equine medicine, particularly in regard to pain management. Some of the more recognized modalities include acupuncture, herbalism, and homeopathy. A brief discussion regarding the theory, scientific evidence and use of these therapies in the treatment of pain will be discussed.

[Can Vet J.](#) 1999 Aug;40(8):592-4.

Veterinary homeopathy: an overview.

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Complementary and alternative therapies, including homeopathy, have a definite place in veterinary medicine today. The public is demanding access to a full range of conventional and complementary therapies, and the best scenario is to have all therapies available, for there is a place and a need for all of them in the right situation. In my own practice, I use both alternative and conventional therapies, as well as referring patients to specialists, for services such as ultrasound and surgery. I believe that the wave of the future is to have veterinarians skilled in both complementary and conventional therapies, and to have veterinary practitioners who are well enough educated to be able to treat the majority of their patients, but who are willing to refer to the appropriate "specialist," if the case and the client demand it. Veterinarians are definitely becoming more aware of the need for and showing more interest in alternative medicine. There are currently several associations in North America for veterinarians with an interest in complementary therapies. In 1998, the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) boasted 1400 members, and the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association (AHVMA) over 800 (1). There are professional courses in veterinary acupuncture, chiropractic, and homeopathy, all 150-200 hours in length, which provide a good basic understanding of these modalities. In most of these modalities, there is also advanced training. Conventional teaching institutions are recognizing the need to have veterinarians well versed in all aspects of veterinary medicine. Colorado State University has offered elective courses for students and on-site courses for practitioners on alternative therapies for 3 years (1). These are designed to teach veterinarians what the alternative modalities are, whether they are effective, and what it takes to become qualified to practise them. The overriding goal in most veterinarians' minds is to heal animals and provide the best in care, so that animals can live healthy productive lives. Education to keep up with new therapies and medications is paramount to this goal. It follows easily that knowledge of noninvasive treatments with few or no side effects that have the potential to heal animals should be welcomed, and homeopathy, as well as other complementary therapies, fits this description.

[Clin Tech Small Anim Pract.](#) 2002 Feb;17(1):19-24.

Complementary and alternative veterinary medicine and gastrointestinal disease.

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Gastrointestinal, hepatic, and pancreatic diseases provide a significant challenge to the veterinary practitioner. Specific causes and effective therapies can be elusive and sometimes frustrate both the animal caretaker and the veterinarian. The therapeutic options of a conventional veterinary practice are frequently limited and may come down to a decision of which is worse: the disease or

the side effects of the treatment. This article provides information for the veterinary practitioner to consider for expanding his/her options. Acupuncture, herbal remedies, and homeopathy are not newly discovered modalities. They are old practices that are getting a fresh look from Western medicine as we seek new ways to better serve our patients and clients. The goal of this article is to provide the reader with many ideas and sufficient solid information to consider the use of these options. Specific therapies are suggested for numerous gastrointestinal and liver problems. Many of these may be used in conjunction with conventional therapies to aid in the healing process.

[JVet Med Sci](#). 2001 Oct;63(10):1057-62.

[Acupuncture for general veterinary practice.](#)

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Since the International Society of Veterinary Acupuncture (IVAS) was founded in 1974, acupuncture (AP) has received greater acceptance by veterinary professionals throughout the world. This article introduces some important animal diseases that respond well to AP therapy. These include resuscitation of small animals, treatment of anoestrous gilts and sows, bovine reproductive disease, canine vertebral problems and equine backpain, etc. Conventional medicine considers these to be difficult cases to treat. Veterinarians have become more aware of the benefits of AP especially for those diseases, thanks to the efforts of experienced practitioners and scientists, and the many published reports on veterinary AP that have introduced some good indications for AP therapy in veterinary practice. Possible mechanisms behind the effectiveness of AP are discussed. This article aims to introduce veterinarians to good indications for AP to initiate their interest in the practice of AP. Although this is a rapidly expanding field, a long march must begin with one step. We wish this article to be the shoes for such a march. For more information on veterinary AP, contact IVAS <ivasoffice@aol.com>, P.O. Box 1478, Longmont, CO.. 80502, USA (<http://www.ivas.org>), or your national veterinary acupuncture society (<http://www.komvet.at/ivadkom/vapsocs.htm>).

[Altern Med Rev](#). 2001 Sep;6 Suppl:S4-16.

[The role of nutritional therapy in the treatment of equine Cushing's syndrome and laminitis.](#)

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Equine Cushing's syndrome, a relatively common and complex condition, is difficult to treat with conventional medicine. Cushing's syndrome involves a hyperplasia or adenoma of the anterior pituitary gland. Biochemical alterations include increased endogenous cortisol, insulin resistance, elevated adrenocorticotrophic hormone, and decreased thyroid hormone levels. Symptoms include hirsutism with no loss of the winter coat in summer, refractory laminitis, weight problems (over- or underweight), polyuria/polydipsia (Pu/Pd), frequent infections, lowered immunity to intestinal parasites, decreased intestinal wall integrity, and infertility. Laminitis (an inflammation of the laminae of the foot) is a common and often fatal complication of Cushing's syndrome that tends to be refractory to conventional treatment. One of the most common therapies is phenylbutazone, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) known to cause significant changes in the permeability of the intestinal wall. Recent research has shown an intestinal bacterial exotoxin to be one of the triggering factors in laminitis. By removing phenylbutazone

and healing the intestinal wall, laminitis becomes more responsive to treatment. Good hoof-care combined with nutritional management and the application of other modalities, including acupuncture and Chinese and Western herbs, can complete the healing process. The successful treatment of equine Cushing's syndrome is one of the best examples of treating a disease using the holistic approach. While each case requires different combinations of modalities, the outcome is usually positive with individually selected treatments.

[Acupunct Med.](#) 2001 Jun;19(1):27-31.

Developments in veterinary acupuncture.

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Veterinary acupuncture has been developing rapidly in recent years. Public attention has been focused on acupuncture as a possible therapeutic intervention for their pets by the media. Interest in acupuncture from the veterinary profession has therefore been primarily driven by owner demand. Veterinarians are now seeking courses in acupuncture that are relevant to themselves as general practitioners rather than as specialists in complementary medicine. Evidence of the efficacy of acupuncture in treating any of the veterinary species is limited, so it is significant that two acupuncture-related trials at Glasgow University Veterinary School are currently receiving funding.

[J Am Vet Med Assoc.](#) 2000 Oct 15;217(8):1201-5.

A brief overview of the analgesic and immunologic effects of acupuncture in domestic animals.

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Comment in:

- [J Am Vet Med Assoc.](#) 2001 Jan 15;218(2):190-1.

[Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract.](#) 2000 Jul;30(4):875-84, viii.

Acupuncture for management of pain.

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Acupuncture is the technique of inserting needles into specific areas of the body to elicit a physiologic response. Although acupuncture is based on the paradigms of traditional Chinese medicine, there are numerous physiologic and clinical studies that document and validate its use.

Control of pain is a major indication for the use of acupuncture. It can be used in conjunction with analgesic drugs or alone to make patients more comfortable.

[Equine Vet J Suppl.](#) 1998 Nov;(27):35-8.

Prevention of crib-biting: a review.

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Crib-biting is a common oral stereotype. Because of perceived deleterious effects on the health and appearance of subjects the prevention of crib-biting is regularly attempted. The resourcefulness of horses in satisfying their motivation to perform this behaviour often frustrates owners' efforts at prevention. This paper reviews the efficacy and observable consequences of attempting to prevent crib-biting by a variety of methods. These include attempts to prevent the grasping of objects, to interfere with air-engulfing and to introduce punishment for grasping and neck-flexion. Other approaches include the use of surgery, acupuncture, pharmaceuticals, operant feeding and environmental enrichment. A remedy that is effective for every crib-biter remains elusive. We conclude that, rather than concentrating on remedial prevention, further research should be directed at establishing why horses crib-bite and how the emergence of crib-biting can be avoided.

[Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract.](#) 1999 Aug;15(2):495-516, viii.

Pharmacologic and alternative therapies for the horse with chronic laminitis.

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This article deals with treatment of the chronically foundered horse. The first section of this article is focused on aspects of the traditional pharmacologic approaches to management of digital pain and sepsis, dietary management, and thyroid supplementation. A second section introduces the concepts, principles, and agents that are used in homeopathic treatments for laminitis. Lastly, a third section of this article reviews the use of acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine approaches to treatment of chronic laminitis.

[Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract.](#) 1999 Apr;15(1):211-21.

Acupuncture as a treatment modality for back problems.

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Concepts of acupuncture in traditional Chinese medicine are presented for clarity and contrast to Western medical concepts. Various acupuncture techniques and methods are discussed including dry needling, electroacupuncture, acupuncture using hypodermic needles, and injecting various solutions into the acupuncture sites. Potential complications and precautions are also presented. A

type of chronic back pain is discussed that is possibly associated with a radiculopathically induced, hypersensitivity myofascial syndrome that presents as a fibromyalgia-like syndrome. Effective acupuncture treatment for the described chronic fibromyalgia-like syndrome is discussed.

[Jpn J Vet Res.](#) 1997 Nov;45(3):137-45.

[Somatic regulation of autonomic functions in anesthetized animals--neural mechanisms of physical therapy including acupuncture.](#)

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This paper concerns somato-autonomic reflex responses in various visceral organs following somatic sensory stimulation in animals anesthetized to eliminate emotional factors. Various forms of somatic sensory stimulation can produce different autonomic reflex responses, depending on the visceral organs and which somatic afferents are stimulated. Some responses have a dominant sympathetic efferent involvement, whereas others have predominantly parasympathetic efferent involvement. Some responses have propriospinal and segmental characteristics, while others have supraspinal and systemic characteristics in their reflex nature. These somato-autonomic reflex responses may be functioning during physical therapy including acupuncture.

[J Altern Complement Med.](#) 1996 Spring;2(1):65-9; discussion 73-5.

[Veterinary clinical applications of acupuncture.](#)

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[Rev Sci Tech.](#) 1994 Jun;13(2):453-63.

[Veterinary folk remedies in Japan.](#)

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The author reviews Japanese veterinary folk remedies through an examination of the literature. Animal husbandry and the development of veterinary medicine are considered briefly, and a number of early veterinary texts are described. Details are given of folk remedies--including herbal medicine, acupuncture and moxibustion, and incantation--which were still in use twenty years ago.

[Schweiz Arch Tierheilkd.](#) 1993;135(9):257-67.

[\[Homeopathy: a field of work for the veterinarian\]](#)

[Article in German]

[Schmidt A.](#)

It is generally known that Homeopathy and other so-called alternative methods of treatment have recently been gaining acceptance. The profession of lay animal practitioner is no longer a rarity in Switzerland. For some, alternative medicine is one phenomenon among others in a saturated health market and thrives on the fact that classical medicine does not yet extend to all areas. For others, the search for alternatives corresponds to a justified demand by the practitioners and denotes an extension of the medical disciplines. The Workshop for Veterinary Acupuncture and Homeopathy (AGVAH) was founded several years ago by veterinarians in Switzerland. It represents the professional interests of its members and upholds their right to practice these forms of therapy. The ensuing debate between classical and alternative medicine questions not only the basis of Homeopathy and similar forms of medicine, but also that of scientific thought. The realization that any scientific approach has its limits can open a door to deeper understanding of traditional occidental medicine.