

Laser Acupuncture

Veterinary acupuncture is believed to have originated in China in 900 BC. Records show that applications of moxibustion – applications of heat to points, and cauterisation – burning of acupuncture points, were being used by Sun yang who became the forefather of veterinary acupuncture. Over the next millennium medicinal books and charts were produced and in 618-907 AD the first veterinary school was opened with 100 students and four professors.

Three thousand years later and veterinary acupuncture is alive and well with literally hundreds of double blinded scientific trials that verify its effectiveness in disease.

The International Veterinary Acupuncture Society was formed in 1974 and aims to promote expertise and integration of acupuncture into the practise of Western Veterinary Science by incorporating current scientific acupuncture and biomedical science in its application and approach. The quote of Jan San Lin DVM, Phd accurately summarises the ethos of the society, “It does not matter whether medicine be old or new so long as it brings about a cure. It matters not whether theories be Eastern or Western as long as they prove to be true”.

Low Level Lasers emit light in the infra-red spectrum (600-904nm). The light can be pulsed or continuous to give better tissue penetration and improve healing potential.

Human research has shown that Low Level Lasers are effective in stimulation of the immune system, increasing circulation, speeding up wound healing and providing analgesia. The laser is used to the same effect in horses using especially modified diodes to penetrate the hair and darker skin.

When used on acupuncture points it is a much easier method of treatment as no pain is evoked and the acupuncture point can even be treated without direct contact to the body. As already described laser light has its own additional healing effects enabling Laser Therapy to become the effective joining of Low Level Laser Therapy and Acupuncture.

Unhealthy cells and cells in tissue modified by illness have a high energy requirement.

The pulsed coherent light waves of the laser penetrate through the tissue directly into the mitochondria or battery of the individual cells stimulating the production of energy and giving a quick start to the healing process that may be slow due to necrosis and the inflammatory response.

Therapeutic laser therapy has been researched and developed scientifically over the last 20 years, there are again literally thousands of studies and papers published proving its effectiveness as a treatment particularly in the relief of pain. The new lasers are capable of calculating the correct dosage and frequency and

can pulse in joules of energy efficiently and in a matter of seconds making the treatment both quick and easy.

Two European Scientists, Nogier and Bahr, studied the effects of laser stimulation of acupuncture points and they concluded that there are certain frequencies of light that are able to give the best results for healing on different types of tissue.

Ear acupuncture is the latest development by Dr Nogier and was introduced into horses and dogs by Dr Uwe Petermann and is ideally suited to treatment with the LLL.

Melzack and Wall's classic textbook on pain refers to ear acupuncture as being in their opinion the most effective choice of holistic therapy in the management of disease and dysfunction.

Ear acupuncture works by referred pattern of pain transmitted neuro-physically. Pain or disease sensations at source are referred into the brain. From the cortex, the irritation that began at source is referred directly to the ear reflex and creates an area of micro inflammation that can be located and mapped using traditional methods of acupuncture diagnosis.

Over the past 30 years many acupuncturists have worked on developing ear charts in humans and animals. Dr. Uwe Petermann's latest book 'Pulsed Controlled Laser Acupuncture Concept in Horses and Dogs' contains several clear and easy to use charts as well as concise treatment methods and many interesting case studies.

Treatment with acupuncture/laser acupuncture is very beneficial in a number of dysfunctions and diseases:-

1. Back pain - acute or chronic including kissing spines
2. Acute lameness – strains, sprains contusions.
3. Chronic lameness – infected arthritis, tendosynovitis.
4. COPD and pulmonary haemorrhage
5. Sinusitis
6. Abscesses
7. Bowed tendons
8. Laminitis
9. Cushings

Acupuncture is not a miracle cure at all neither is it a panacea, instead it is a very effective and viable therapy that should be considered as a valid treatment in many diseases. It has earned itself a place alongside Western veterinary medicine and will continue to flourish with the development of the laser making delivery of the treatment a relatively simple process.

