

## Alternative Care

**Acupuncture** is a treatment method developed many years ago in China. Veterinary acupuncture stimulates points in the body tissue where nerves and blood vessels meet, correcting energy imbalances, enhancing blood circulation and nervous system stimulation, and releasing antiinflammatory and painrelieving hormones. As the acupuncture points are stimulated by the needles, the nerve endings respond by prompting production of neurochemicals such as endorphins in the body.

Acupuncture can be used to treat several canine and feline disorders such as musculoskeletal pain, back pain, arthritis, allergies, GI upset, etc. The needles are very small and remain in the skin for about 1030 minutes, depending on treatment required.

Initial treatments consist of twiceweekly visits for the first three to four weeks. As your pet responds, treatments are decreased to one visit per week, or even one visit every two weeks if possible.

**Laser therapy** is a method used in treating acute pain, chronic conditions, and post-operative pain. This method utilized a beam of light to stimulate cell activity in the patient's body tissue, reducing inflammation and pain, while increasing the speed of healing.

Your pet may feel a gentle, soothing, warm sensation during the procedure. Most treatments last five to twenty minutes, depending on the size and location of the affected area. Acupuncture and laser therapy can go handinhand. Pets receiving acupuncture may be recommended laser treatment or vice versa.

Initial alternative care appointments can last two hours to properly asses your pet's medical condition, examine the patient, prepare an appropriate treatment plan, and perform the treatments.

At the time of your appointment, pets should be kept in a welllit, enclosed, low-traffic area of your home where they are unable to hide or run. Please block off any hiding spaces (under furniture, in closets, etc) to the best of your ability. Soothing music or aromatherapy can also be used during the appointment. Laying your pet on soft bedding or padding is also recommended. The more relaxed your pet is, the more effective the treatment. During treatment, it is normal for pets to become gassy or fall asleep.

Fees:

Initial consultation & first treatment: \$225

Progress exams + additional treatment: \$140