

# **ANOTHER NATURAL MEANS OF CANCER THERAPY**

## **Intravenous Vitamin C**

By: Rose DiLeva VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA

Ascorbic acid is a strong water-soluble vitamin that is involved in the body's utilization of collagen, bones, blood vessels, muscle and the absorption of important trace minerals. Over the decades hundreds of papers have been published about the positive affects of Vitamin C (ascorbic acid). Studies have shown that very high levels of ascorbic acid can be obtained in the body via intravenous administration. Vitamin C, when taken by mouth at mega doses can cause severe gastrointestinal sides effects such as diarrhea and vomiting. Additional studies have shown that higher levels can be achieved by the intravenous route without the side effects that occur by the oral route.

In the early 1990's I started to investigate yet another potential treatment that could have positive effects in the health and well being of animals that are diagnosed with cancer. I came to the conclusion that Linus Pauling was absolutely correct in many of his observations and studies of Vitamin C and its positive effects on the body. The main problem lay in the fact that at levels approximately above 2,000-3,000 mg. (milligrams) daily, taken orally, one could get serious gastrointestinal problems. Vomiting, stomach and intestinal ulceration and diarrhea were very common and increased in severity and frequency as the oral daily dosage increased.

Vitamin C is one of the greatest antioxidants known on this planet and is readily available to us and our pets. It is usually in a powder form and is pretty palatable from clients' experience through the years.

The data proves that at high intravenous doses, Vitamin C is TOXIC to cancer cells! There are studies that have gone on and continue to go on at the University level that are determining what the specific levels need to be in the bloodstream to actually be toxic and destroy the abnormal cancer cells. Work out of London showed that The Vitamin C acts as a pro-oxidant and destroys cancer cells membranes and produces hydrogen peroxide. The cancer cells are more vulnerable because of a significant less amount of an enzyme that allows the ascorbic acid to destroy the cancer cell.

Intravenous Vitamin C is on the current list of "Stage IV" treatments for cancer. Stage IV being those cases in which time and severity were of issue. The advanced cancer patient does not have time to build up its immunity. Stage IV patients have to be paced so as not to kill off too many cancer cells at once since the body must detoxify this all out of it. Approximately 60% of the cases I see fall into this category. Stage III patients are able to build up immunity and slowly kill the cancer cells.

A case in point is Sam, a 12 year old male Labrador diagnosed with liver cancer, given a grave prognosis and 2 or 3 months to live at best. He was started on intravenous Vitamin C infusions, Chinese herbs and Acupuncture treatments, mostly geared to maximize his immune system. As treatment progressed Sam's elevated liver enzyme values returned to normal and stayed that way for the next four years. The most important aspect of this kind of treatment is that there are essentially no negative side effects. The pet has a quality of life with minimal changes in their life style.

Cleo was a 12 year old female domestic short-haired cat. She came in with a cranial abdominal mass the size of a golfball. She was given two weeks, maybe three, but she had stopped eating and was vomiting. Intravenous Vitamin C was part of an overall

holistic approach to her case. Not only did her appetite come back, but she gained some weight, stopped vomiting and the mass never changed size. Cleo succumbed to a heart disease at the age of 17.

Presently, I have lung cancer, bone cancer, skin cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, hemangiosarcoma (blood based cancer), fibrosarcoma, liver cancer, lymphoma and lymphosarcoma types of cancer being treated. I recommend going to [google.com](http://google.com) and type in “intravenous vitamin C” and you will be amazed at what you find! Recently, a physician from California called me from a large holistic practice. He has been doing this treatment in humans for the past thirty-five years. His successes are vast. Personally, I do not understand how such a fantastic treatment option was not on the front page of Time magazine or Primetime TV.

I can only give you what I have investigated and experienced clinically in my patients. My feeling is that there is, in fact enough supportive evidence and controlled clinical trials in the literature to warrant further investigation of the use of high doses of Ascorbic Acid given intravenously to augment cancer therapy in companion animals.

# **Cancer Treatment with Traditional Chinese Medicine**

Hello and Welcome to the Animal Wellness Center,

Apparently, your pet has been diagnosed with cancer and you are seeking some form of alternative veterinary medical care in addition to or in place of conventional veterinary treatment for this condition. The treatment of cancer according to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has been ongoing for thousands of years. The Chinese wrote and documented symptoms and treatment of skin and breast tumors with acupuncture and herbal formulas almost 2000 years ago. Today, over 60% of the world's population utilizes alternative medical treatments to maintain their health and treat illness. That is over four billion people. It is our goal here at the Animal Wellness Center to give you and your pet the benefit of that knowledge and experience.

At first, the terminology may seem different and unfamiliar. This is normal. Chinese medical theory encompasses a totally different system than what we are used to here in the west. None the less, its ability as valid and proven has withstood the test of time. Remember, indigenous cultures all over the world have used plants and herbs for centuries. We are simply utilizing the "wisdom of the ages", if you will.

## **What To Expect in the Examination Room**

The treatment plan for your pet will be completely individualized based on Dr. DiLeva's conventional western physical examination, as well as, her Traditional Chinese Medical examination. Traditional Chinese medicine often utilizes techniques of Tongue Diagnosis and Pulse Diagnosis. You may see Dr. DiLeva looking at your pet's mouth if it is open or your pet is panting. It is best to make tongue observations when that organ is situated in the mouth in the most natural position for your pet, rather than forcing it open in a potentially uncomfortable manner. The tongue's color, width, thickness, coating and individual markings all provide information into your pet's state of health. You will also frequently see Dr. DiLeva feeling around on your pet's back legs. She is assessing the characteristics of the femoral artery's pulse. In Chinese medicine there are 18 different pulses and they are felt at three different levels. She may spend a great deal of time here because it gives her information regarding your pet's internal health and the health of the internal organs and organ systems. In part, she will assess for imbalances, obstructions, deficiencies or excesses to the flow of the body's natural energy, also called Qi (pronounced chee).

Your initial consultation will be the lengthiest, lasting anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 hours. If current blood work or radiographs are recommended, you will be asked to wait for those results. We will provide the results in a timely manner from our on-site laboratory located on the second floor of the hospital. This will enable Dr. DiLeva to immediately address issues of concern.

You will be asked questions about your pet's daily schedule, diet and environment. We will want to know all of the medications and supplements your pet is currently taking. We will also want to know if any adverse reactions to medications or supplements of any kind have occurred in the past. We will want to know the commercial pet food brand(s) that you use or if your pet is on a special diet of some kind.

The management of your pet's health is a dual responsibility. Together we can strive to keep your pet as balanced, comfortable, and healthy as possible. We encourage you to be a part of your pet's health and continued well-being. We will want to know the observations of your pet's behavior from treatment to treatment. Did they go home and sleep after their acupuncture treatment, were they more engaged in activity with you, did their general attitude seem improved? Did they seem to get worse before getting better? All the observations that you make, no matter how insignificant they may seem, should be verbalized.

**Here are some interesting facts regarding cancer and Chinese Medicine:**

TCM is less invasive, treats the patient as a whole and reduces or eliminates side effects.

Western medicine emphasizes eradicating local tumors by surgery, chemotherapy and radiation or a combination of the above.

TCM is very effective at preventing or eliminating iatrogenic pain due to chemotherapy, surgery or radiation.

TCM will enhance the body's immune system, reinforce its ability to withstand disease, promote the body's vital energy, and provide some measure of tumor inhibition.

Studies show that TCM and conventional medicine is 300% more effective than conventional medicine alone.

**Our Strategy:**

- Enhance Immune System function
- Restore Balance to Endocrine Functions
- Promote the Production of Blood
- Protect Bone Marrow
- Protect Organ Function: Heart, Liver, Kidneys
- Improve Absorptive ability of the Digestive Tract
- Boost all Metabolic Functions
- Stimulate the Body's Self-regulating Ability
- Reduce the side effects of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, while improving their effectiveness

Please always feel free to ask questions as your pet's treatment progresses. Thank you.

Rose DiLeva VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA



# ***ASK THE VET***

## **Dental Disease**

By: Rose DiLeva MD, MS, CVCP, CA

### **QUESTION:**

Last month I had the opportunity to meet you when I took my 10 year old dog to your Animal Wellness Center for a consultation. He had been slowing down lately and I wanted him checked out well. My Charlie was seen by my conventional veterinarian just 5 weeks earlier for his vaccinations. When you examined Charlie you determined that he had severe gingival and periodontal disease along with severe tartar and plaque on his teeth. Can dental disease develop to that extent in just a few weeks? Why did the other veterinarian not mention this to me?

### **ANSWER:**

I cannot comment on why Charlie's dental disease was not previously addressed (but I will anyway). Obviously, I have to maintain a professional repoir regarding the "skills" of some of my colleagues. As with any health care profession, you have the good, the bad, the exceptionally great and what I consider the "greedy unethical." Those of you reading this magazine are much more likely to search out the good and great practitioners, not only for yourselves, but for your pets. This is the most beneficial option to choose. Remember, you as the consumer, have every right to ask to see diplomas, attendance of continuing education, and check with the professional organizations they are members of to ensure that they are in good standing. Please, do it. It is your right, and in this day and age of questionable healthcare, ask for that proof and don't be afraid or intimidated by anyone trying to dissuade you otherwise. If you don't see proof of the qualifications he or she claims to have, then move on to someone else. It is your legal right. Research, ask questions and find the best in the field for what you are looking for.

Examination of the oral cavity should be a part of all routine physical examinations. The American Veterinary Dental Society states that greater than 70 % of cats and 80 % of dogs develop periodontal disease by the age of three. Periodontal disease can be seen in pets in different degrees. Gingivitis, which is an inflammation of the gums; plaque, which is bacteria that develops from food particles that adhere to the outer surface of the tooth; and calculus, which occurs when plaque becomes mineralized and adheres to the surface of the teeth. This is why food that is eaten by your pet and stays on the teeth, even in very small quantities, over time can cause inflammation of the gums, bacterial growth and hard calculus. Other signs of dental disease are bleeding gums, bad breath, grinding or "chattering" of teeth when trying to

eat, eroded, broken or blunt ended teeth, increased drooling (especially cats), reluctance to eat or play with toys, even lethargy and depression.

In order to accurately examine teeth, the upper lip needs to be raised and pulled towards the back of the mouth to properly visualize the upper and lower molar and premolar teeth. They are considered the "cheek teeth" because of their location. They are the teeth that are most likely to get infected and abscessed because this is the location where food tends to sit and essentially decay. Unless this is properly done, serious infection can start and continue for months to years before it is noticed. Good dental care ideally begins at home when your pet is young and is monitored professionally by your veterinarian at annual check-ups. In my opinion, one of the most important preventative actions a pet owner can take is to be aware of dental hygiene and learn how to brush their pet's teeth. This is easy to get your puppy or kitten use to when they are just a few months old. Studies have shown that brushing your pet's teeth regularly can extend their life by up to three years! Brushing at home will also reduce the number of times your pet needs to be anesthetized to have their teeth cleaned. Brushing will also eliminate that "doggie breath" that occurs over time that is the result of periodontal disease.

Left untreated, gingivitis will progress to more severe periodontal disease that causes oral pain and allows bacteria to enter the bloodstream and damage other organs such as the kidneys, heart, intestines, joints and liver. Continued lack of treatment can lead to organ failure, sepsis and death.

Correctly performed, a complete dental cleaning and scaling for your dog or cat involves anesthesia. As such, it is important to get pre-dental blood work to ensure that all organ systems are functioning correctly to minimize anesthetic risk. There are a number of different types of anesthesia that are very safe. The oldest cat I have performed a dental procedure on was 22 years old; the oldest dog was 19 years old. Frequently, pets are put on antibiotics to reduce the infection prior to and after the procedure. Most pets go home the same day of the procedure.

One last and very important fact you need to know. Any kind of dental procedure should be done only in a veterinary hospital. I have heard stories of people in "veterinary related" jobs claiming and making the client pay for a "dental cleaning." Scraping plaque off of a pet's teeth with one's finger nail or other instrument does NOT qualify as a correct procedure. If anything it will stir up the bacterial infection in the mouth and could lead to systemic infection and organ damage.

Dr. Rose DiLeva is a 1987 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's school of Veterinary Medicine. She practices alternative and conventional veterinary medicine. Dr. DiLeva is a certified veterinary acupuncturist and a certified veterinary chiropractor. She can be reached at her Animal Wellness Center in Chadds Ford, Pa. at 610-558-1616 for appointments, speaking engagements and telephone consultations. Her web site is [www.altpetdoc.com](http://www.altpetdoc.com).



## ***ASK THE VET***

By: Dr. Rose DiLeva VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA

### **ARTHRITIS**

#### **Question:**

My 9 year old Springer spaniel was just diagnosed with arthritis. The veterinarian called it “spondylosis” of her spine. Can acupuncture help her?

#### **Answer:**

Spondylosis can be a very painful condition for dogs, cats and even small pocket pets such as rabbits, ferrets and hamsters. Generally, spondylosis refers to a condition that affects the bones (vertebrae) protecting the spinal cord. Anatomically, it is the backbone. The individual vertebrae protect the spinal cord. There is a sponge-like material, the disc material that cushions the area between the vertebrae. When a condition such as spondylosis occurs it is because extra boney material starts to form at the front end and the back end of the vertebra. Frequently, this is due to misalignment, trauma, infection and general wear and tear of the bones as a result of aging. Simply stated spondylosis is a “form of arthritis”.

I have seen arthritis develop as a result of bacterial infections, viral infections and fungal infections. In our part of the country, the Northeast, Lyme disease is endemic. This means that there are more cases of Lyme disease diagnosed in this location than there is in other parts of the country. This is generally due to the large population of white-tailed deer and the fact that the deer tick carries the organism. This makes it easier for the human and the

pet population to be exposed. It is not necessary to walk through the woods the get infected. These ticks are very adaptable. They can be found on the tips of grass, on shrubs, and in ground cover. Your pet can pick up an infected tick very easily; get bitten and manifest signs fairly quickly. The organism that causes Lyme disease is called a spirochete. Spirochetes tend to migrate through the muscles, tendons, ligaments and joints of the body. If they settle in your pet's joints a serious case of degenerative arthritis can develop. Lyme disease can be the cause of arthritis in many cases.

Can acupuncture help? Yes, you bet it can ! Frequently, arthritic type conditions occur as an animal or person gets older. Spondylosis causes the nerves coming out of the spinal cord, which are protected by the vertebrae, to get irritated. This irritation of the nerves causes pain. Acupuncture can ease the irritation to the nerves and make the pet feel much better. In my experience, acupuncture improves the quality of life in pets that have an arthritic condition such as spondylosis. Acupuncture combined with the appropriate Chinese herbal formula(s) has been more beneficial then just acupuncture alone.

The pharmaceutical industry provides us with a multitude of synthetic medications to treat "the pain of arthritis". The problem is that they come with a multitude of side effects as well. Some of the more common side effects with this particular class of medications are vomiting, diarrhea, and gastrointestinal infection, inflammation or ulceration. Additionally, many of these medications affect the liver and kidneys adversely causing an elevation of liver and kidney enzymes. An experienced and properly educated veterinarian can recommend alternatives to some of these conventional medications. Acupuncture essentially has no serious side effects in companion animals. Given the choice, I know which option I would take.

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## ***ASK THE VET***

By: Dr. Rose DiLeva

Question: Canine Cancer

My dog, a 5 year old, male, Golden Retriever, stopped eating and started to lose weight rapidly earlier this year. My veterinarian suggested an abdominal ultrasound. Much to my surprise and disappointment he was diagnosed with liver cancer. I don't want to put him through chemotherapy. Are there any holistic treatments available for us to pursue?

Answer:

First, let me explain very simply just what "cancer" is. Cancer is the uncontrollable growth of cells in one or more locations in the body. Under normal, healthy conditions the cells of the immune system would attack and eliminate any abnormal or foreign cells that develop or gain access into the body. When the body's immune system is weak or compromised by illness, stress, poor diet, or environmental toxins, it may not be able to kill all the cells that should not be there. Consequently, an abnormal rate of cell growth occurs. These abnormal cells are then considered a cancer. The name the cancer gets is generally based on the cell type or origin of the cells. For example, Mast cell tumors are made up primarily of mast cells. Squamous cell carcinoma is made up primarily of squamous cells. Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) is made up primarily of osteocytes, and so on.

Presently, cancer is the number one "natural" cause of death in dogs. In 22 years of practice I have seen cancer go from a fairly low and even rare incidence to a very high incidence. Cancer is by far the most common condition that I treat in pets, particularly dogs. It is more common in pure breed than mixed breed dogs.

Treatment plans are individualized to each particular patient and their needs. Immune system support is always a part of my treatment. Acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chinese herbal supplements, Anti-oxidant therapy, Neoplasene treatment, Chiropractic adjustments, Reiki and Intravenous Vitamin C are some of the treatment possibilities at my Animal Wellness Center in Chadds Ford, Pa. Chinese herbal protocols for specific types of cancer are instituted and combined with one or more additional treatments. Herbal tinctures are formulated on site for each pet at the time of their initial consultation. Herbs from China, India, Australia, the Amazon and North America are used. The pet's diet is evaluated and recommendations for improvement are given. Comfort level and quality of life are of utmost importance. Side effects are rare to non-existent to date. Clients are also instructed in the practice of visualization and positive thought with respect to their pet's cancer.

Presently, we are in the process of compiling and documenting the various cancers we see and the treatments used. A case in point is "Cleo Ann", a 10-year old, female Bischon. She was diagnosed with liver cancer and liver cirrhosis. Cleo was given a very grave prognosis and two months to live. Her owner was devastated and very upset by this news. She came to see me shortly after the diagnosis. Cleo's liver enzymes were all elevated and some off the charts. I started her off with a combination of acupuncture and Chinese herbs for the cancer and to strengthen her immune system.

Within four weeks of treatment her liver values improved, her appetite returned and she was wagging her tail again. We started to increase the intervals between her acupuncture treatments and continued to monitor her liver blood values. If you were to look at her you would never imagine that she had cancer. She was the picture of health. Obviously, her two month death sentenced passed without consequence. Cleo's owner was committed to her treatment protocol and adhered to it as one year, two years, three years, four years and more passed. Her liver values came back into the normal range for much of that time. Sometimes only one of the three liver values we monitored was abnormally elevated. Adjustments were made to her treatment protocol as determined by me. On the occasions when the values were elevated she had no clinical signs of illness at all. Both her owner and I were extremely pleased with her progress. Then, one day I received a call from her owner saying that Cleo had stopped eating. Upon physical examination Cleo was thinner, with yellowish colored gums, skin and sclera (the white part of the eye). Her skin had a yellowish tint to it. What I suspected was verified by blood analysis and x-rays. Cleo was in liver failure and the cancer started, once again, to drain the body's defense system, only this time it won. Cleo was euthanized peacefully. It was a sad day for all of us that knew her. Cleo lived 5 years past the time conventional veterinary medicine said she would live and she had a good quality of life the entire time. She was 15 years old.

# ***ASK THE VET***

By: Rose DiLeva VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA

## **Acupuncture in Pets**

**Question:** Please tell me what medical conditions acupuncture can be helpful to in pets. Can any veterinarian do acupuncture?

**Answer:** Let me start by enlightening you to the additional education necessary to be a qualified veterinary acupuncturist. The first requirement is to be a doctor of veterinary medicine. That entails four years of veterinary medical education after four years of college. My personal acupuncture training was through The International Veterinary Acupuncture Society. This is an international organization with rules, regulations and standards that apply worldwide. This education includes lengthy classroom studies, on-hands practical examinations on dogs, cats and horses and written case reports, the quality of which must be eligible for publication in a professional veterinary journal. Additionally, to complete the course, one must do an “internship” with a certified veterinary acupuncturist in their practice. If one were to compare college credit hours to this scenario, it would be the equivalent of a PhD degree. A qualified graduate veterinary acupuncturist can be found at their web site [www.IVAS.org](http://www.IVAS.org).

Under no circumstances should a human acupuncturist practice acupuncture on an animal. Humans are bipedal (two-legged) while most companion animals I treat are quadruped (four-legged). While the meridians and the principals of Traditional Chinese Medicine are the same, there are differences with respect to the exact locations of certain acupuncture points. The transposition of these points is where the knowledge of veterinary acupuncture differs from human acupuncture. These very specific locations are of ultimate importance, for these are the points that can make the difference between treatment success and treatment failure.

Acupuncture can benefit the following conditions: arthritis, allergies, asthma, bronchitis, dermatitis, hip dysplasia, degenerative joint disease, spondylosis, gastrointestinal issues (vomiting, diarrhea, colitis, inflammatory bowel disease), cancer, seizures, kidney disease, liver disease, thyroid disease, musculoskeletal problems (sprains, strains, acute trauma, disc disease), urinary and fecal incontinence, pain management, cystitis (bladder infections, feline urologic syndrome, bladder stones), and much more.

Acupuncture is the placement of tiny needles into specific points on the body for the purposes of healing. The acupuncture needles are very thin and usually made of stainless steel. The needles are very flexible and readily bend in any direction. They range in length from 2-3 millimeters to many inches. Typically the shorter needles are placed in areas on the body that have thinner layers of muscle, such as the area above and adjacent to the backbone, the wrist or the ankle. Longer needles, on the other hand, are placed in muscles adjacent to and overlying the hips and thighs.

The World Health Organization recommends acupuncture as an effective treatment for over forty-two medical conditions, including allergies, respiratory conditions, gastrointestinal disorders, nervous system conditions, gynecological problems, disorders of the eyes, nose and throat, headaches, chronic pain associated with arthritis and degenerative joint disease, and as an adjunct in patients suffering from cancer and AIDS.

Dr. DiLeva is a 1987 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's school of veterinary medicine. She practices alternative and conventional veterinary medicine. Dr. DiLeva is a certified veterinary acupuncturist and a certified veterinary chiropractor. She can be reached at her Animal Wellness Center in Chadds Ford, Pa at 610-558-1616 for appointments, speaking engagements and telephone consultations. Her web site is [www.altpetdoc.com](http://www.altpetdoc.com)

## **GOLD BEAD IMPLANTATIONS IN VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE**

**By: Rose DiLeva VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA**

The 1970's were an exciting decade in medicine in the United States. The introduction of acupuncture from the East opened up many avenues of healing. The public became more aware of alternative methods of healing, both for themselves and their pets. Individuals that had a positive response to non-conventional treatment modalities, such as acupuncture, homeopathy, Chinese herbs or chiropractic adjustments, began to question whether these same treatments would be beneficial for their companion animals. Fortunately, after more than 3 decades, the public has become more aware of the benefits of alternative healing methods. The Internet has greatly contributed to the public's awareness of other treatment options.

Veterinary acupuncture has been practiced in China for over 4,000 thousand years. Thousands of publications have come out of China, Japan, Korea and Europe demonstrating the benefits of acupuncture in both animals and humans. Acupuncture is the stimulation of specific points on the body utilizing thin, flexible needles for the purpose of healing. Stimulating acupuncture points causes effects that alter physiological and biochemical conditions within the body. Acupuncture releases neurochemicals, neurotransmitters and neurohormones into the bloodstream and cerebral spinal fluid. Acupuncture can stimulate nerves, relieve muscle spasms, stimulate the body's immune system, relieve pain and help to maintain the body's homeostasis. Dry needles, liquid, heat, electricity, laser or the implantation of gold or other metals can stimulate acupuncture points.

Dr. Grady Young of Georgia first attempted gold bead implantation in veterinary medicine. His techniques were modified and researched by Dr. Terry Durkes in the mid-seventies. I had the good fortune to learn from this great master a number of years ago.

Gold bead implantation is an extension of the acupuncture procedure. Correctly placed, the beads provide long-term stimulation to the acupuncture points. The procedure is done under general anesthesia. The treatment area is clipped and surgically scrubbed. Placement of the gold beads is very precise. Misplacement by even 4-5 mm greatly reduces clinical results. The beads are less than 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch in diameter. The gold beads I use are Magrain beads. These beads are slightly magnetized to impart a positive electric charge. Areas that require treatment and respond to implants are areas that have excessive negative charge. Typically, a 14 gauge, 1 ½ inch needle on a modified 3 cc syringe is utilized. Three or four beads are injected into each area to be treated. Most beads are placed into acupuncture points. This is usually in the subcutaneous tissue, between , or into muscle bellies. It is essential that this procedure be performed by a certified veterinary acupuncturist with advanced training and experience in gold bead implantation. Specialists in veterinary acupuncture can be obtained from [www.ivas.org](http://www.ivas.org). This will give you the names of veterinarians in your state that are qualified by the standards set forth by the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society.

Original cases of gold bead implantation were performed on German Shepherds with hip dysplasia and in dogs with seizure disorders. At that time, two beads were placed per site and an approximate 75% success rate was achieved. Today those statistics continue to improve as more clinical case research is accumulated. We have since realized that weight and age are determining factors in success rate as well as the number of beads placed per site.

Medical conditions that benefit from gold bead implantation include: hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, wobblers, degenerative joint diseases, intervertebral disc disease, epilepsy/seizures, carpal and tarsal problems, lick granulomas, traumatic nerve injury, chronic cruciate injury, brachial plexus injury, fecal and urinary incontinence, asthma, allergic dermatitis,

and long term injuries. The list continues to expand as further research is conducted. In my hospital, pets that undergo this procedure are sent home the same day. Follow –up examinations are generally on a weekly basis depending on the condition being treated.

Additional information regarding gold bead implants in companion animals can be attained by calling my office at 610-558-1616.

Dr. DiLeva is a University of Pennsylvania graduate and practices alternative and conventional veterinary medicine. She is a certified veterinary acupuncturist and a certified veterinary chiropractor. She can be reached at the Animal Wellness Center in Chadds Ford, Pa. at 610-558-1616 for appointments, speaking engagements or telephone consultations. Her web site is [www.altpetdoc.com](http://www.altpetdoc.com)

# NEW HOPE FOR CANCER IN YOUR PETS

By: Rose DiLeva VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA

After twenty years in veterinary medicine and almost as many years studying and practicing the holistic modalities involved, I have finally come upon an herbal based formula that appears to have significant fighting power against cancer in pets. Examples of what the world have considered break-throughs in modern medicine in the past were the discovery of penicillin, aspirin and morphine. All of these are botanicals that came from plants or, in the case of aspirin, the bark of a tree! No single botanical base has had more single uses than the common aspirin. We take it for the simple headache, yet, in certain circumstances, we are advised to take it to avoid getting blood clots in particular medical conditions. Basically, botanicals are the basis of most of the pharmaceuticals that exist and have been synthesized in the conventional medical profession today.

Simply stated “cancer” refers to any uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the body. Cancer can be on the body (such as the skin) or within the body (such as the liver, spleen, lungs or bone). Some cancers stay localized in one area while other spread to adjacent tissues or distant parts of the body (called metastasis). Some pure breed dogs (such as the Golden Retriever) tend to have a higher incidence of cancer than mixed breeds and the incidence tends to increase with age. A recent study suggested that pets over 10 years of age have greater than a 50% chance of getting some form of cancer in their lifetime.

Well, pets lovers, get ready for this! There is a compound the basis of which comes from *Sanguinaria canadensis* that has hit the forefront of alternative veterinary medicine that has had some mind-boggling results. I’ve been using it in dogs and cats for the past two years now and have had some wonderful and encouraging results. It appears to be the abundance of isoquinoline alkaloids in the active principle of sanguinarine that causes the death of neoplastic (cancer) cells. In micromolar concentrations the main constituents preferentially eliminate cancer cells without precipitating the death of normal cells. The substance, called Neoplasene, should only be used under a licensed veterinarian familiar with its use and competent in holistic modalities. The substance can be injected into tumors, given orally, applied topically or a combination of them all. I have put very serious and aggressive tumors such as bone cancer (osteosarcoma) and a type of skin based tumor (fibrosarcoma) into remission in a matter of months. Most of these patients were given a grave to poor prognosis because of the typical progression of that cancer. The following are a few of the cases that have been very successful.

“Sasha” is a 10-year-old, male, Yorkie that had two small pea-sized masses on the skin between the shoulder blades. Both masses were injected with the compound and the salve applied topically. Approximately 1 month later they both sloughed off leaving a small wound area that healed non-remarkably. As of today, nearly 2 years latter, “Sasha” is free of tumors and there is no indication that they, or any other masses, are growing on his skin.

“Dutch” is a 14-year-old, male, Labrador that had a mass approximately 1 cm. in diameter that was located on the outer aspect of his hind leg ankle. The tumor was injected twice with the substance. Within 2 weeks the mass detached from the skin and

healed as an open wound. As of the writing of this publication there is no evidence of recurrence of that mass and “Dutch” is walking much better than before.

“Sheba” is a 16-year-old female domestic short haired cat that was diagnosed with a very aggressive malignant cancer called squamous cell carcinoma. The cancer was located on the roof of her mouth. This mass was injected with Neoplasene and also applied topically under general anesthesia. This occurred every one to two weeks for a total of four treatments. As of this writing ( approximately 7 months from initial diagnosis), the cancer has gone into remission and no evidence of recurrence is present.

“Zach” is a 12 year old, male, miniature poodle that had a mass of unknown origin approximately the size of a jellybean on the tip of one ear. The mass was noticed to be increasing in size approximately one year ago. It was subsequently injected later that month once with Neoplasene. The mass sloughed off within one week and healed as an open wound uneventfully. The tumor has not returned and the area looks completely normal.

My personal experience with Neoplasene has varied from case to case but it has extended the lives of many of my cancer patients. Very often other holistic anti-cancer treatments, such as acupuncture, Chinese herbs and high dose intravenous ascorbate, are utilized in conjunction with Neoplasene. Most importantly, however, is that the main goal of my approach to cancer treatment is to give your pet a happy, comfortable, pain-free life for as long as possible.

Dr. Rose DiLeva is a University of Pennsylvania graduate. She practices alternative and conventional veterinary medicine and has a particular interest in cancer. She is a certified Veterinary Acupuncturist and a certified Veterinary Chiropractitioner. She also practices Traditional Chinese Medicine and makes a number of her own Chinese herbal formulas. She can be reached for on-site appointments or telephone consultations at her Animal Wellness Center in Chadds Ford, Pa at 610-558-1616

## ***ASK THE VET***

Rose DiLeva VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA

### **PET CANCER DIET**

#### Question:

I have heard that there are specific dietary recommendations for pets with cancer. Is this true? Also, are there any other supplements that can be used to help fight cancer?

#### Answer:

There are numerous options to consider when dealing with a pet that has been diagnosed with cancer. There are many different kinds of malignant cancer. Osteosarcoma is a type of bone cancer that is very aggressive and very painful. Squamous cell carcinoma is typically made up of a cell type called squamous cells. It tends to invade soft tissues such as the gums and mouth. It too is very aggressive and fast growing. Some cancers start in one part of the body and spread (metastasize) to other parts of the body such as the liver, lungs and spleen. Benign tumors (non-cancerous) are generally removed without incident unless they have become too large and compress other organs affecting their structure or function.

The type of cancer can determine the recommended course of action. From a holistic point of view there are some considerations that may be beneficial. Data is scant at the moment proving that these actions are effective; however, many clinical cases do show that the pet's quality of life is better than would be expected with solely a chemotherapy or radiation protocol.

Diet is of utmost importance. The first rule of thumb is to keep the pet eating. An animal whose appetite is decreased or gone has little chance of fighting this disease. Based on work done by Dr. Ogilvie, one should use a homemade diet that is low in carbohydrates with moderate amounts of fat and protein. For dogs 50% of the mixture should be poultry or fish, for cats increase this to 80%. For dogs the other 50% should be mixed frozen or fresh vegetables, for cats decrease the percentage to 20%. Additionally, olive oil or flax can be used as the fat source at a dose of 1 teaspoon per 20 pounds of body weight. As a source of calcium try calcium carbonate at a dose of approximately 250 milligrams per 15 pounds of body weight. Both dogs and cats should have a vitamin-mineral supplement that your veterinarian can recommend. Cats require the amino acid taurine; therefore, add 250-400 milligrams daily to this mixture. This formula is not completely balanced and should be re-evaluated weekly based on the pet's weight, disease progression and body condition.

Antioxidants are often recommended in the treatment of cancer in animals, typically in patients that are old and possibly are experiencing the side effects of more conventional treatment. These pets can gain benefits for joint pain, mobility, cognitive dysfunction and other age-related diseases. Antioxidants, such as Vitamin C, E and selenium, are best given in combination since many are mutually dependent on each other. There are conflicting reports regarding antioxidant use with chemotherapy or radiation in the treatment of cancer. Clinical studies addressing the pros and cons of utilizing antioxidants in this situation have been published. One trial suggests that antioxidants mitigate the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. The evidence is still conflicting.

Supportive measures are imperative to the cancer pet. Age- related and chronic diseases such as arthritis, rheumatism, muscle spasms, cognitive decline, diabetes, hyperthyroidism and the pain of the tumor itself can be helped with additional modalities. Acupuncture, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Reiki, Massage, Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation and Herbal Medicine can be very beneficial in elevating such symptoms.

Dr. Rose DiLeva is a University of Pennsylvania graduate and an awarding-winning author. She practices alternative and conventional veterinary medicine at her Animal Wellness Center in Chadds Ford, Pa. Dr. DiLeva is a certified veterinary acupuncturist and a certified veterinary chiropractitioner. She can be reached at 610-558-1616 for appointments or telephone consultations. Her web site is [www.altpetdoc.com](http://www.altpetdoc.com).

# ***ASK THE VET***

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## **TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

### **Question:**

I have a cat that almost died when I accidentally gave him an aspirin for pain. He is almost 14 years old and is walking slowly these days and stopped jumping up on my bed to sleep with me. Why did this happen?

### **Answer:**

First, it is very important not to assume that over-the-counter medications for humans can be utilized for our pets. Not only can prescription and over-the-counter drugs be toxic, but the dose that one medication may use can differ from a dog to a cat. A good case in point is your cat and aspirin. Aspirin is extremely toxic to cats if not given under strict instructions and supervision. Cats are particularly sensitive to aspirin because they lack a certain enzyme necessary in metabolism. Other over-the-counter drugs that can be toxic to cats are acetaminophen, otherwise known as Tylenol, and ibuprofen. Two doses of regular strength acetaminophen can be fatal to a cat.

Other compounds that can be toxic to your cat include methylxanthines such as caffeine; theobromine and theophylline. These are found in coffee, tea, stimulants, chocolate and different medications. Clinical signs usually start within a couple of hours following ingestion and can result in seizures and death.

Another more common cause of poisoning in cats, especially in the winter time, is ethylene glycol toxicity or antifreeze. Cats tend to like the sweet taste of it and readily ingest it. Small doses are extremely fatal in both dogs and cats.

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Although more rare, another substance toxic to cats is lead. This problem tends to arise these days from ingesting lead based paint or lead-containing dust. It can even occur if a lead contaminated coat is groomed a cat.

Zinc is another, yet rare, toxic problem with cats. Frequently, it is due to ingestion of pennies minted after 1983 when the zinc content increased or from ingesting or chewing on the nuts made of zinc in transportation crates. Some rubber products, diaper rash

products, batteries, soaps and cosmetics also contain varying quantities of this trace mineral.

Various kinds of pesticides can be harmful to your cat particularly if they are outdoors, part of the time. Pesticides such as Warfarin, Coumateryl and Brodifacoum interfere with the clotting mechanism causing bleeding in the stool or blood vessels and can lead to seizures and death. Ng potentially toxic or you gave a human medication

Any time you question whether your pet ingested something potentially toxic or you gave a human medication that you are not sure is useful in pets, please call your local veterinarian or emergency hospital immediately. Some of these substances are deadly with in hours so time is a critical factor.

Given the holiday time of year and the previous question, I am providing the reader with a partial list of plants that are potentially toxic to dogs, cats, rabbits and birds. Please remember that not all parts of a plant are toxic and the toxic dose varies from plant to plant and animal to animal.

Amaryllis spp  
Andromeda Japonica

Heart Leaf Philodendron  
Hyacinth spp.

Arrow grass (leaves)  
Asian Lily  
Apple seeds (Malus spp.)  
Arrow grass (leaves)  
Avacado (esp. birds. the pit, leaves, stems)  
Azalea spp.  
Bird of Paradise (pods, flowers)  
Buckeye spp. (nuts, seeds, sprouts)  
Buckthorn spp. (esp. birds)  
Caladium spp.  
Calla Lily  
Castor Bean  
Ceriman spp  
Chinese evergreen  
Cherry (Prunus spp. (leaves, bark)  
Cutleaf Philodendron  
Clementis Montana  
Cordatium spp  
Cycads (Cycas revoluta)  
Daffodil (Narcissus spp.)  
Devil's Ivy (Epipremnum aureum)  
Dieffenbachia spp. (Dumb cane)  
Dracaena Palm  
Dragon Tree  
Easter lily  
English Ivy  
Elderberry (sambucus Mexicana)  
Euonymus spp. (bark, leaves)

Hydrangea spp  
Iris spp.  
Lupines (seeds, pods)  
Jack-in-the-pulpit  
Jerusalem cherry (Solanum spp)  
Jimsonweed (Datura spp)  
Japanese Show Lily  
Larkspur (Delphinium spp.)  
Lobelia spp.  
Mistletoe (Phoradendron spp)  
Marijuana  
Narcissus spp.  
Nephthytis spp  
Oleander (Nerium oleander)  
Onion  
Peach (Prunus spp.pits, leaves)  
Poinsettia (Euphorbia spp)  
Poison Ivy  
Poison Oak  
Poison Sumac  
Primrose (Primula spp.)  
Rhododendron spp.  
Red Emerald  
Rosary Pea (esp. birds)  
Sago Palm  
Schefflera  
Sweetheart Ivy  
Skunk cabbage (esp. birds)

Foxglove spp (Digitalis purpurea)  
Gold Dust Dracaena  
German Ivy  
Hurricane Plant  
Holly spp. (Ilex aquifolium..leaves, berries)  
Horse Chestnut (Aesculus spp.)

Tiger Lily  
Tobacco  
Velvet grass (leaves)  
Woody aster (entire plant)  
Wisteria (pods,seeds)  
Yew spp

Dr. Rose DiLeva is a 1987 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's school of Veterinary Medicine. She practices alternative and conventional veterinary medicine. Dr. DiLeva is a certified veterinary acupuncturist and a certified veterinary chiropractitioner. She can be reached at her Animal Wellness Center in Chadds Ford, Pa. at 610-558-1616 for appointments, speaking engagements and telephone consultations. Her web site is [www.altpetdoc.com](http://www.altpetdoc.com).

# *Ask the vet*

## Veterinary Acupuncture

By: Rose DiLeva, VMD, MS, CVCP, CVA

### **Question:**

Can acupuncture be helpful to pets?

### **Answer:**

Yes, acupuncture can be very helpful in all companion animals, not only as a means of treatment but, more importantly, as a preventative means of keeping them healthier and happier for the longest time possible. Acupuncture has proven beneficial in the following conditions in my experience (plus many more): asthma, allergies, arthritis, anxiety / behavior issues, musculoskeletal problems, sprains, strains, muscle spasms, bursitis, tendonitis, hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, urinary diseases, neuralgia, disc problems, spondylosis, intervertebral disc problems, skin conditions, kidney conditions, liver diseases, various types of cancer, pain management, immune system conditions, the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation, Lyme disease, chronic and acute diarrhea or constipation, inflammatory bowel disease, hind end weakness, wobbler disease, pulmonary problems such as bronchitis, pneumonia, and cardiac support.

### **Question:**

How long do acupuncture treatments in pets last?

### **Answer:**

Acupuncture treatment time depends on the condition or conditions being treated, as well as, the age of the pet. Generally speaking, however, dry needles are kept in place between 5 and 20 minutes in my office. Most of the animals get very relaxed, yawn, and often fall asleep. Acupuncture, by nature, releases some of the body's natural endorphins causing them to relax and enjoy their treatment.

### **Question:**

Is catnip safe to give my cat?

### **Answer:**

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) is a member of the Mint family. It grows readily in North America. Its primary medicinal activities have been to expel intestinal gas, as a sedative, antispasmodic, mild diuretic, helps to alleviate vomiting and most commonly, a feline euphoric. It commonly is placed in cat toys because in most cats it produces a euphoric and calming effect due to an ingredient in the plant called nepetalactone. It should be avoided in pregnant cats.

### **Question:**

How many litter boxes should I have for my two cats?

### **Answer:**

I recommend one litter pan per cat plus one more. This may sound like a lot but, in fact, some cats will only urinate in one box and pass feces in another. Also, some are reluctant to go where others have gone before them. This is why it is very important to clean out litter pans every day. I have seven cats and ten litter pans that are cleaned each day. I have seen cases through the years in which, after much questioning and ruling out medical problems, a cat starts to urinate or defecate outside the litter box. The problem is rectified by adding another litter box or two or changing the kind of litter used. Some cats do not like clay, clumping or scented litter. Cats, like people, have likes and dislikes and this applies to “bathroom” facilities as well.

**Question:** Should I leave dry food down all day and night for my pets? They are strictly indoors except for walks. My cat has play time on our balcony. Of course we play with them with their toys when home but I’m not sure that’s enough exercise.

**Answer:** After 20 plus years in practice, I have found that leaving food available all day is not a good idea. Primarily, because digestion actually starts in the mouth with the enzymes present in saliva. The fact that digestion starts in the mouth keeps our pets from just lying around the home and getting into a habit of walking by the food bowl and taking a few mouthfuls of food just because it’s there and becomes a habit. Overweight pets are also predisposed to many other diseases as they age. My recommendation is to put food (dry and canned) down at the same time in the morning and evening for an hour or so. This works well and our pets adjust to the change quickly and have those juices flowing in their mouth when they should, which is when they hear you opening the can or bag of dry food just before putting it down. In a future article I will make recommendations about what to avoid in pet foods and why.

Note: Dr. DiLeva is a University of Pennsylvania graduate and practices alternative and conventional veterinary medicine. She is a certified veterinary acupuncturist and a certified veterinary chiropractitioner. All responses given are based on her knowledge and experience in clinical veterinary practice. She can be reached at the Animal Wellness Center at 610-558-1616 for appointments, speaking engagements or telephone consultations. Her web site is [www.altpetdoc.com](http://www.altpetdoc.com)

# ***ASK THE VET***

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## **RECOGNIZING PAIN IN YOUR PET**

### **Question:**

How do I know if my dog or cat is experiencing any kind of pain? They are both getting older and “slowing down” but they never cry or whimper.

### **Answer:**

First and foremost to understand about animals is that we have domesticated them. As such we can live with dogs and cats in our homes and generally coexist without issue. There is, however, a part of both dogs and cats that is an innate instinct for survival. I usually explain it to my clients by saying that we need to go back a million years or so when survival of the fittest in the forest was the norm. Back then, as now, in the wild, an animal is either a predator or the prey. When either of them became injured or weak, they became an easy target for a hungry predator. A weak, injured, compromised animal will become prey and most likely eaten if it makes any sounds related to pain. Consequently, most sick, injured, dying animals crawl under a bush, go into a cave or hole, hide and pass away. This aspect of our companion animals is still very much present. It is very rare to hear a dog or cat cry in pain, even under the most severe of circumstances. The most serious of injuries I've seen in my career was a shepherd mixed breed dog weighing about 65 lbs. He was hit by a car, dragged and rolled under the car for a number of yards. He sustained injuries to one of his legs that involved a fractured bone and exposure of literally threads of muscle, tendons and ligaments. His thigh bone (femur) was sticking straight out! That dog didn't even whimper; all he did was hold up that injured leg and wag his tail. I never saw anything like it in my life.

So, when a client tells me that his or her pet is not in pain because they're not crying, I quickly tell this story. Simply stated, a pet can be in very severe pain and we may notice only subtle signs. These signs may go unnoticed for months to years if the person is unaware of what to look for.

Pain management should be included in the treatment plans for all surgical procedures, trauma and many medical conditions such as gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestinal tract), pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), some ocular problems (corneal ulcers), some cancers such as bone cancer (osteosarcoma), and arthritis (osteoarthritis). It is important to ask questions about what a pet is no longer doing rather than what they are doing. It is also important to have a scale of assessment. The scale goes from no problem, a little bit of a problem, quite a bit of a problem, a severe problem and it's an impossible task to do. The person is asked to assess difficulty in jumping into the car, lifting their leg to urinate and getting onto the couch. Other questions would ask about walking, running, jumping, getting up, getting down, lying down, climbing the stairs and descending the stairs. An additional question is if your pet has any abnormal chewing habits. Pets will often chew or lick at a part of their body that is painful. Sometimes it is referred pain because they cannot reach the area where the pain is really located (ex. licking at a back paw because of hip pain and too much arthritis to actually

reach the hip area). A drastic weight loss or weight gain can be a sign of pain somewhere. Any decrease or increase movement or exercise can also be indicative of discomfort in a pet's body. Uncharacteristic "accidents" in the house or yard can also indicate a pain problem is present. Waling stiff or hunched over also is indicative of pain.

If you have a question about your pet's health or level of comfort, take them to your local veterinarian for a full physical examination with blood work and x-rays. It will mean a happier and healthier pet for years to come.

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