

as lick granulomas. Stress related conditions. Chronic airway disease such as asthma. Urinary and faecal incontinence issues. Chronic renal failure, immune dysfunction and chronic urinary problems such as cystitis.

What to expect afterwards

Most pets show no ill effects from the treatment, occasionally your pet may be lethargic and more sleepy than usual afterwards. Depending on what the condition is your vet is treating they may advise a short period of rest for your pet.

Many pets will start to show improvement in their condition shortly after their treatment, for other conditions, it may take a combination of therapies or a few sessions before you can see the benefits.

Can they eat, drink & exercise normally?

Generally your pet can go about their daily activities as normal, in certain circumstances/condition your vet may recommend a short period of rest, or special diet.

Acupuncture & Physiotherapy

We often use acupuncture a great deal for muscular—skeletal issues, and as such find most patients gain the most benefits from combined treatment with the Physiotherapists and vet acupuncturists. These sessions can be combined, please talk to your vet for more information.

The legal status of veterinary acupuncture

The treatment of animals with acupuncture is an act of veterinary surgery and can therefore only be performed by a qualified veterinary surgeon.

Qualified Veterinary Nurses (VNs) can perform acupuncture as a Schedule 3 procedure (see RCVS website for more information.) However, VNs should be aware that, given the nature and practise of acupuncture, they will be restricted by the limitations of Schedule 3. A letter would be required from an MRCVS in the practice, stating he or she is willing to direct the VN in this regard.

If you have a query?

If you have any queries please ring the reception team on the numbers below, they will either be able to help you direct, or pass your message onto the vets and nurses.



12 Columbine Road, Walton Cardiff, Tewkesbury. GL20 7SP
Tel: 01684 292244

2 Church Road, Bishops Cleeve, Chelt. GL52 8LR
Tel: 01242 679880

1 Folly Gardens, Barton Road, Tewkesbury. GL20 5QP



Acupuncture for your pet

An independent, family owned practice, offering quality veterinary service & care.



What is acupuncture?

At Folly Gardens we use modern western veterinary acupuncture. Western acupuncture is derived from ancient Chinese medicine, using the most up to date principals in physiology, anatomy, and pathology, as well as evidence based medicine.

Acupuncture involves inserting very fine needles through the skin, into the underlying tissues to relieve pain, speed up recovery rates and increase resistance to disease.

Acupuncture can be used in all species, generally here at Folly we see cats, dogs and rabbits for acupuncture, but we are happy to see other species too.

How does acupuncture work?

Using fine needles in specific points around the body relieves pain by facilitating the release of the bodies natural pain relieving chemical known as endogenous opioids. Further research has revealed that acupuncture also acts on an area of the brain called the *hypothalamus* as well as the *Autonomic nervous system* where it has 'normalising' effects, opening up the understanding of the treatment of all sorts of internal medical problems such as recurrent cystitis and chronic airway disease.

In human medicine the National Institute for health care excellence (NICE) have authorised the use of acupuncture in the NHS as an effective treatment for conditions such as chronic back pain and tension headaches

What are the risks ?

Your vet will perform a thorough health check prior to prescribing any acupuncture sessions. All acupuncture is performed by our fully qualified vets, who have trained with the Western Veterinary Acupuncture group (www.wvag.co.uk)

The risks during acupuncture are minimal, and your vet will explain the steps needed to keep you and your pet safe during a treatment.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

Please bring your pet in relatively clean. We don't mind if you get caught in a shower of rain on your way over, however it is not sensible to 'needle' pets who are muddy, dirty or very wet. If they require a bath prior to treatment, please ensure they are washed 24 hours in advance, to allow their coat to be dry.

What do I need to bring?

Please bring your dog in on a lead, and cat and other small pets in a suitable, secure carrier. You are very welcome to bring in their favourite treats, bed or toy is your would like.

When you arrive

Please book in at reception and take a seat in our waiting room. If your pet find the waiting room stressful, you are welcome to wait outside and we will come and find you (please make sure reception are aware of this.)

What happens during the treatment?

Initial treatments will last approximately 20-30 minutes. The vet will take a history of your pet's problems and discuss the case with you. The vet will then perform a full clinical exam, to ensure your pet is OK to undergo their treatment. You are very welcome to hold your pet, but if you would prefer a nurse to come in too, then please ask.

The vet will start of the treatment very gently using acupuncture points that will help to relax your pet. Most animals find the session very relaxing and will often 'nod off' to sleep. The session will be tailor made to your pet, their temperament and medical conditions.

Subsequent treatments are for around 15 minutes, and we generally try 4 sessions, one a week, and take it from there.

Will your pet be uncomfortable?

We use very fine needles, and most of the time your pet will not even be aware they have a needle in place. Sometimes they may show a small reaction to certain acupuncture points, such as looking around at the vet. Your vet will tend to know which ones these will be, and often a food distraction will be all that is needed! Most patients settle well, and happily come back into the consult room next time.

What conditions can be treated with acupuncture?

Acupuncture has been used successfully in a great many conditions, such as back pain, osteoarthritis, muscle and ligament strains, chronic gastro intestinal disease, skin conditions—such