

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