

# Pawsitive Press

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**Seizures and Integrative Medicine: A Perfect Fit**

By: *Michael Bartholomew, DVM*

It's 3 AM, your pet starts shaking uncontrollably and you feel helpless. Seizures can be one of the most nerve wracking diseases a pet owner can encounter. A trip to the veterinarian's office will include a thorough physical exam and diagnostic testing such as bloodwork to try to find the cause of the seizure. There are many causes that can contribute to seizure activity including trauma, encephalitis, liver disease, and neoplasia, but many times the diagnosis is epilepsy. Part of the journey may also require a trip to the specialist where more robust diagnostics may be performed such as an MRI or CT scan. Your pet may be started on medications in an effort to control the seizure activity.

Many of the medications used to control seizure activity can carry side effects such as lethargy and when used long-term may even cause organ damage. More over, they may not completely control the seizure activity. Integrative practices such as acupuncture and herbal



therapy can be used as an adjunct treatment to help control the seizures. In some cases they can be used as a stand-alone therapy. If a pet is on medications when coming to the Animal Hospital of Dunedin, the goal is to first stabilize the patient and control the seizures. In many cases, with the assistance of acupuncture and herbal therapy, the western medication can be reduced in an effort to minimize side effects.

The first step in starting your pet on the TCVM (Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine) pathway with acupuncture and herbs is to set up an acupuncture consult with one of the doctors at the Animal Hospital of Dunedin. It will then be determined if the pet is a candidate for acupuncture. If the answer is yes, then an initial acupuncture session will be set up where the doctor will do a full TCVM exam after obtaining a

TCVM exam will yield what is known as a "pattern diagnosis" which will help the practitioner determine the best points and herbal formulas to use in treating the seizures. Pattern diagnosis is the root of an acupuncturist's treatment and is integral to the success of TCVM in treating disease. There is a saying in Chinese Medicine, "One disease, many treatments." In the case of seizures there are many patterns that the practitioner will be looking for and this will lead to more treatment options. After the exam, the potential diagnosis may include Internal Wind with a Liver Blood Deficiency, Yin Deficiency, Stagnation of Blood or more. While this may sound strange to ears in modern times, it makes perfect sense to an acupuncturist who has studied a medical practice which has been in use for thousands of years. For example, with the lack of an MRI machine thousands of years ago, when a seizure was seen, the relationship was made that it looked like wind waving through the trees and thus one of the components of a seizure is "wind." Thus, they would be choosing treatments to "clear the

### Seizures Continued

wind.” Now it is known by placing needles in specific points, there is a physiologic response from the body.

Initial acupuncture sessions will be weekly for 4-6 weeks and then they are spread out based on the response of the patient. Think of the first 4-6 sessions as setting the foundation for future treatments. At the first appointment, herbal therapy will also be incorporated as part of the treatment plan.

Acupuncture and herbal therapy can have the potential to greatly improve quality of life for patients with seizures. It can be used safely along with western medications to help control seizures and, in some cases where seizures are well controlled, can be used to decrease the amount of drugs needed to treat the seizures. Pets tolerate acupuncture very well and most enjoy the treatments, so take that first step and come meet one of our TCVM practitioners!



# Happy Holidays!

## Pet Safety During the Holiday Season

### Be Careful with Seasonal Plants and Decorations

- **Oh, Christmas Tree:** Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria, and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.
- **Avoid Mistletoe & Holly:** Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a pet-safe bouquet.
- **Tinsel-less Town:** Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel.
- **That Holiday Glow:** Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!
- **Wired Up:** Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth and digestive tract.

### Plan a Pet-Safe Holiday Gathering

- **House Rules:** If your animal-loving guests would like to give your pets a little extra attention and exercise while you're busy tending to the party, ask them to feel free to start a nice play or petting session.
- **Put the Meds Away:** Make sure all of your medications are locked behind secure doors, and be sure to tell your guests to keep their meds zipped up and packed away, too.
- **A Room of Their Own:** Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hubbub.
- **New Year's Noise:** As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears. And remember that many pets are also scared of fireworks, so be sure to secure them in a safe, escape-proof area as midnight approaches.

# Animeals Pet Food Pantry

Pets provide stability for their families during trying times.

Unfortunately, during financially stressful times, often the pet is the first that is sacrificed in order to be able to afford food to feed the family. Our nation has risen admirably to the plight of impoverished families who need to be fed and there are food banks in nearly every major city to help with this crisis. Many families have been sharing their own food bank portions with their extended furry family members, and those that can't make the food stretch may have to make the painful decision to relinquish their family pet. To combat this growing issue, many food banks across the nation have added pet food and litter to their pantries. At the Animal Hospital of Dunedin, we would like to build upon this generous spirit and help provide the Animeals Food Pantry of the Humane Society of Pinellas and the Senior Pet Connection with much needed supplies to help those families in need. During the month of December thru January 14, 2017 we will be accepting food, treats, durable toys AND Advantage II on behalf of the Animeals Food Pantry and the Senior Pet Connection. Please help us help other less fortunate families by bringing a donation to the hospital. No donation is too large or too small, every bit will help. We will have treats and Advantage II available for purchase at a discounted price at the front desk, as every pet deserves a little something extra special this holiday season!

For more information on the Animeals Food Pantry and the Senior Pet Connection please visit the site below:





**Animal Hospital**  
**OF DUNEDIN**  
*Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness*

**\$1**

## \$1 First Exam - New Patient

(\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine or Holistic/Acupuncture appointments. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer.

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**-10%**

## 10% Off Dental Cleaning

( Call for an appointment today 727-733-9351)

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental labwork. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts. Must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 12/31/16 NL



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**\$5 OFF**

## Santa Claws Special

Present this coupon and receive \$5.00 off your pets pedicure. Pet must be current on a rabies vaccine. Walk-ins welcome. May not be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 12/31/16 NL

**Animal Hospital of Dunedin**  
1355 Pinehurst Rd  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
  
Phone: 727-733-9351  
Fax: 727-733-8165  
E-mail:  
[animalhospitalofdunedin@gmail.com](mailto:animalhospitalofdunedin@gmail.com)



“Caring for pets with love and kindness since 1977”



**We're on the Web!**  
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