

Acupuncture for Dogs

What Is Acupuncture?

Acupuncture is an ancient therapy that involves inserting very fine, sterile needles into specific points on the body to stimulate healing and balance. In veterinary medicine, acupuncture is used alongside conventional treatments to improve comfort and support recovery.

How It Works

Acupuncture helps by:

- **Stimulating nerves and circulation** – promoting the release of natural pain-relieving and anti-inflammatory substances.
- **Reducing muscle tension** – improving mobility and flexibility.
- **Encouraging healing** – enhancing oxygen and nutrient flow to tissues.

Common Conditions Treated

Veterinary acupuncture can be helpful for many conditions, including:

- Arthritis and joint pain
- Hip dysplasia
- Intervertebral disc disease (back pain)
- Nerve injuries
- Post-surgical recovery
- Gastrointestinal issues (such as nausea or constipation)
- Chronic pain or inflammation

What to Expect

Most dogs relax during their acupuncture session—some even fall asleep!

- Needles are very fine and typically cause little to no discomfort.
- Sessions usually last **15–30 minutes**.
- A series of treatments may be recommended depending on your dog's needs.

Is It Safe?

When performed by a **licensed veterinarian trained in acupuncture**, this therapy is safe and well-tolerated. Side effects are rare and mild, such as slight fatigue after treatment.

Integrative Care at Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic

At PVPC, acupuncture can be part of an **integrative treatment plan** to help manage pain, improve mobility, and enhance your dog's quality of life. It works beautifully alongside other medical and rehabilitation therapies.