




Rainbow Bridge	Dogs We Have Said Goodbye To	
	Bustout Erk (Zoey)	Pg Del Toro (Toro)
	Hannah	

	Happy Tails		Welcome to Our New Dogs	
	AJN Red Hydrogen	Blowin N Burnin	Deco Allstar	Piper
	Slitherin Under	G's Black	Detroit	Catty
	DKC Shotgun	Zero	KBS Presley	Basanti
	Magic	HKF Vickis Sect	Rica	Tommy
	O'Brien	Spotty	Sheeru	Duke

## IF...

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can overlook it when those you love take it out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can face the world without lies and deceit,

Then, my friend... you are almost as good as your dog!

## Acupuncture

Last year my twelve year old greyhound, Cajun, began having back problems. He has difficulty getting up and sometimes one of his hind legs collapses and he either sits down unexpectedly or falls down completely which is upsetting to both of us. After consultation, my veterinarian put Cajun on anti-inflammatory medication that has helped and recommended we try acupuncture.

Acupuncture is something I knew little about -- only that it involved needles and I hate needles! So I did some research.

Doctors of Traditional Chinese Medicine have been using acupuncture on humans for 2500 years. The Chinese view the skin as an interface between the internal and external environment. The acupuncture points are exit and entry points for the internal and external energy (Qi pronounced 'chee'). Acupuncture points are a means of balancing the energies.

Veterinary acupuncture is only about 25 years old in western cultures. Controlling or eradicating pain is what acupuncture does best. Acupuncture also has therapeutic value in a wide variety of animal diseases particularly in stimulating the body's defense system. Pain conditions that respond well to acupuncture include lameness caused by muscular rheumatism, muscle spasm, spinal trauma and mild cases of disc protrusion. Seventy to ninety percent of cases of back pain respond to acupuncture. You see improvement in function although acupuncture does not alter the disease (arthritis, prolapsed disc, etc.). Acupuncture can't help all conditions though. Acupuncture usually cannot help in severe cases of spinal damage, terminal cancers, and advanced kidney or liver disease.

Acupuncture therapy works by stimulating the relevant reflex points in the skin and muscles. Acupuncture points have electrical properties that distinguish them from surrounding skin. These electrical properties relate to specific organs, regions or functions in the body. The electrical properties of these acupuncture points change when disease is present.

Initially the veterinary acupuncturist will examine your dog completely, looking for signs of disease. Things the vet checks for are pulse quality, color and coating on the tongue, any smell in the ears or discharge in the eyes as well as general health and appearance. Our vet usually comes out to the house. Cajun displayed anxiety in the beginning (which may have been because I did) although being at home did help. There are several different types of acupuncture -- dry needling, electro-needling, point injection, or aqua-puncture. Our vet decided to use electro-needling with Cajun.

Over the years, experts have refined acupuncture needles from crude instruments of bamboo, flint or porcelain to the extremely fine, stainless steel needles we use today. The vet inserts the needles at the appropriate acupuncture point in two stages using a push-twirl technique. The first stage penetrates the skin and the second stage places the needle at the correct depth in the tissue. Muscular areas generally have the needle inserted at a 90° degree angle deep into the muscle, while bony areas have the needles placed perpendicularly to the body and advanced subcutaneously. When correctly inserted, the muscles grip the needles.

In electro-needling, the vet inserts the needles as for dry needling and then connects electrical outputs to these needles from an electro-stimulator. These electrodes deliver an electrical stimulus to the acupuncture points. Electro-needling provides stimulation for an hour or more after the session is over. Needles remain inserted for 10-30 minutes for chronic conditions such as arthritis. If the needles fall out, they are generally not re-inserted, because the relaxation of the muscle indicates sufficient stimulation of that point. Point injection (often using vitamin B12) and aqua-puncture (water) both involve injections at the acupuncture points.

In acute cases dogs are treated with acupuncture every one to three days, and in chronic cases, every three to seven days. Massage by owners over the acupuncture points in between treatments shortens the recovery time. Your vet can show you how to do this.

Since Cajun's case is chronic, he began getting treatments of electro-acupuncture weekly. He also began a vitamin regimen (500 mg vitamin C twice a day and 400 IU vitamin E once a day). Although I did not see an improvement in Cajun's hind end during the first month, I did notice an overall improvement in his general health and well-being. He had more energy, began eating better and slept less.

When he first started treatments, Cajun sometimes cried when the vet inserted the needles, particularly when the needles went into the bony area over his dewclaws. The vet would massage these areas gently before reinserting the needle. The first few times the vet gave Cajun his treatments, the first needle she inserted was one on the very top of his head. This is a sedative point and helps the dog to relax. However Cajun only needed this point stimulated the first few treatments because after that, he knew what was coming and he looked forward to it. He would totally relax the minute he saw the vet walk through the door. We almost didn't need to do the treatment.

Cajun continued his treatments for almost 3 months, going from once a week, to every second week, then every third week. His hind end did not improve sufficiently for me to stop his medication but the therapeutic benefits of those treatments are still being felt. Cajun will be thirteen in October and we're still trying to figure out how to get him to slow down.

*Postscript: I wrote this article many years ago so Cajun has long since gone to the Bridge to join his greyhound siblings, Aija and Boone. He was our longest-lived greyhound, at 14.5 years. I have since used acupuncture on all my greyhounds, and they were all fine with it, except Gabby, our current greyhound. She doesn't like it and tends to roll around so the needles fall out.*

## How to get ticks off your dog

First, don't touch it with your bare hands. It's a good idea to wear latex gloves while doing this to ensure you don't touch the tick. Part the dog's hair around the tick and using fine-tipped tweezers, firmly grasp the tick and pull it straight out. Don't twist, and don't squeeze the tick, as that can cause it to release infection into your dog. If small amounts of the tick remain in the skin, put some Polysporin or other antibiotic cream on it. It is not true that if you leave the head in, the tick continues to feed. It doesn't. It's dead. However, there could be some skin irritation from whatever is left – hence the antibiotic cream. Don't dig around trying to get bits out as that can increase the risk of infection. Generally the dog's body will encapsulate the remaining part(s) and it will then be expelled. If you are concerned, take the dog to your vet.

Do **not** try to burn the tick out, or cover it with something like Vaseline to smother it. This won't work.

If you live in parts of the country that have tick-borne diseases, you may wish to save the tick, with a damp cotton ball in a pill bottle, and take it to your vet.

Ticks do not lay eggs on animals. They feed on the animal, then drop off to lay eggs. So get it off the dog before it lays eggs in your house or yard!

## Events

Don't miss these fun events – mark your calendars now!

### Pet-A-Palooza Calgary

The West Coast's largest pet festival takes over Eau Claire Market on July 27th & 28th from 10:00-4:00 on Saturday and 11:00-4:00 on Sunday



For Further Information: <https://www.petapaloozawest.com/calgary#2018-exhibitors-calgary>

### You're invited! We're getting the party started for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Delta Community Animal Expo on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019!

The Delta Community Animal Shelter proudly presents the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Delta Community Animal Expo at Memorial Park in Ladner. Bring your leashed friendly dog(s) and check out the local vendors and pet organizations, participate in fun activities, win prizes and more! Throughout the day there will be demonstrations like dancing dogs, dog agility and scent tracking; all while enjoying the food trucks and meeting some amazing animals and pets for adoption.

Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 – 3:00 pm

NCGL has so much more going on at our booth this year and **ALL** proceeds go to the dogs!

- NCGL will be offering **free samples** and will have a lot of the goodies on sale **BY DONATION** with greyt bargains to be found! Stock up with special treats for your hound!
- Details for **Kiddies Korner** are being finalized – to follow!
- Raffle for cozy dog bed!

There will be contests and games for the animals, so enter and see if Fido can take home a prize!

For further information contact: [treasurer@ncgl.ca](mailto:treasurer@ncgl.ca) and we are looking for volunteers to help us in the booth.....come join in the fun!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE! HELP US HELP THE HOUNDS!**



Keep an eye out for announcements for upcoming celebrations being planned for "20 Years in 2020"

## Foods you should NOT feed your dog

Onions and garlic (even chives are bad)

Macadamia nuts

Raisins and grapes (my friend just spent \$1500 for her dog at the vet hospital when it got into a loaf of raisin bread)

Chocolate

Avocado

Alcohol (or hops)

Gum or candy with xylitol (which is an artificial sweetener that can kill your dog)

Any food with caffeine (coffee, coffee beans or grounds, chocolate covered espresso beans)

Blue cheese (because it contains roquefortine C )

## Liver Muffin Recipe

1 corn muffin mix

1 egg

1 package (approx. 1 lb.) of uncooked chicken livers

Pureé the RAW liver in blender, add to rest of the ingredients, bake in a muffin pan with paper muffin cups at 350 F - approx. 20 min. or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Frost with cream cheese, if your dogs will let you wait for them to cool! Keep them refrigerated after baking!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are always needed.

Why not join in the fun and lend a hand?

QUESTION:	ANSWER:	Articles or Photos of Your Hound	Please Send
What Goes Here ?	Anything You Want To Contribute	(We need models!)	To quailrunfarm@ shaw.ca