



# Complementary Medicine in Veterinary Practice

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There are many types of complementary medicine that can act as an adjunct to traditional medicine for your pet. This can take shape in nutrition, physical treatments (acupuncture, chiropractic, massage), herbal/botanical medicine, homeopathy as well as bioenergy treatments. These are all done in a similar manner, as these treatments/therapies are applied to humans.



inflamed ears, and/or chronic diarrhoea. Changing to bland diets, stabilising gut bacteria and lining the gut can assist many, but if there are still issues, good advice from a nutritionist can be of great assistance. This is particularly helpful for dogs on long term therapy and chemotherapy drugs. Additional vitamins and trace elements can be most beneficial to overall health.

*'The most important thing before starting any of these treatments is to have a good diagnosis of the condition you are treating in your animal. Any treatment will be far more effective if the treatment is properly directed to start with.'*

*'Herbal medicine and homeopathy has a long history of being effective. Again, the emphasis has to be on correct diagnosis and looking at the whole picture of health for each animal.'*



Bach Flower remedies are very effective on many conditions, particularly in improving attitudes and emotional states, especially in nervous dogs that have had bad experiences. Knowing the right combination for the various different fears can be critical in the effectiveness.

Many of these treatments are used in conjunction with main line drugs or therapy, to assist in getting the best result for your pet.

Areas that can be particularly effective are massage and chiropractic work. Anti-inflammatory drugs will work on sprains and damage, but when the back or neck is out, minor manipulation or acupuncture may be needed. Dogs in working condition regularly sprain and injure their muscles, so a good massage can be invaluable.

This is also true with chronic muscle wasting, associated with disc injuries. Stimulating these muscles back to peak activity is essential for full recovery. Hydrotherapy for these chronic injuries can also be a very important aspect in recovery.

Dietary assistance can be of major significance if you have dogs with chronic issues that have been non responsive to normal changes in diet. Many dogs have low grade allergies to different foods, which can result in chronic skin irritation,



For any of these people, their competency in their area of expertise has been passed around by word of mouth with the dog fraternity. If you are not getting the required result within several weeks (longer with dietary issues), a second opinion or another trip to your veterinarian may be warranted.