

Holistic Healing Restores Wellness

By Jaime Gonzalez, DVM, CVA,
and Susan Blake
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Holistic healing is not just about using a certain set of treatment modalities, such as acupuncture, herbs, chiropractic or homeopathic remedies versus using conventional methods that include antibiotics or steroids. Holistic medicine attempts to restore wellness rather than just treat a symptom.

In my practice, I have addressed the underlying cause of illness with each case. The whole animal is considered in the healing process.

A Different Approach to Healing

For the health of our animal companions, this approach to healing is the successful difference. Over the years, I have found affordable, alternative and complementary medicine that works; that is the focus of our practice. Especially during these economic times, we have set our goal to have respect for the financial health of our clients.

In choosing treatment options, everything is considered, from the age of the



Above, Dr. Gonzalez and vet tech Jenny Kochiss examine Kallie at a follow-up visit to determine how her recovery from numbness in her back legs using holistic therapies is progressing. Photo courtesy of Bear Creek Veterinary Alternatives

pet to the genetics of each particular breed; every individual pet has its idiosyncrasies. Whether neutered or spayed, the type of diet and supplements, the current physical problem, and the emotional state of the animal—each play a part in the

treatment process.

A pet's emotional health is of the utmost importance because animals, like humans, need a well-grounded and centered balance of body and spirit to follow a natural path to healing.

We currently employ more than ten modalities of alternative medicine, including an extensive knowledge of Chinese herbal medicine. We work together with other health care practitioners using chiropractic, massage and Healing Touch.® When needed, internal medicine/oncologists, ophthalmologists, dermatologists and orthopedic surgeons are consulted to support the treatment options.

Synergistic Healing

My experience in veterinary medicine has evolved from an internal medicine background and my work in specialty clinics in Chicago. The hospital doctors often worked together on cases; that collaborative approach has shaped my philosophy. It's true that when one or more healers cooperate on a case, the synergy creates better results for the patient.

Often we work by referrals from other veterinarians. We typically receive patients with their written clinical records, standard blood work and radiology films from their referring doctors. We take everything into consideration, so the more data the owners bring, the better.

Kallie Greenwald's Case

An example of a recent case is a Welsh Corgi named Kallie Greenwald, who was referred by her family doctor. She had been to a specialist for an MRI with a diagnosis of chronic, advanced vertebral spine degeneration that was causing numbness in her back legs. This condition affected her mobility and ambulation. She was placed on steroids; surgery was not an option for her owners.

We evaluated all the testing from the family doctor and orthopedic specialist, and we decided to start treatment by using an acupuncture modality known as Electroacupuncture. We added Chinese herbs for inflammation and pain.



Dr. Jaime Gonzalez,
Bear Creek Veterinary Alternatives

Kallie also had a Healing Touch session for emotional and energetic balance.

As the weekly treatments have progressed, Kallie has been able to stop steroids and let her body find her own way to healing. We have now rounded out the family doctor's treatment protocol by also adding Nutraceuticals that help with muscle and ligament flexibility and the better digestion of her supplements and daily food.

Kallie continues to improve and she is going back regularly to her family doctor for her normal rechecks and blood work.

Community of Healers

We believe providing a cooperative environment of health practitioners to address our animal companions' physical and spiritual needs is essential to their well-being and gives back to them all the love they give us unconditionally.

At Bear Creek, our philosophy is rooted in the ancient belief that all things are interconnected, including our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health and that of our animal companions. We often work with your family vet to enhance treatment. And we strive to make holistic care affordable. ❁

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