

**Holistic, Acupuncture and Chiropractic Consultations:
What to Expect During Your First Visit at the Elburn Animal Hospital
630-365-9599**

Due to the high volume of acupuncture and chiropractic patients that are being referred to us by their traditional veterinarians, we have put together a FAQ sheet on what to expect during your first visit, also known as the initial consultation.

During the first visit for any holistic appointment, such as acupuncture or chiropractic treatments, we need to gather a lot of information, so please expect a longer appointment. The consultation appointment for these services can take as long as 1 to 1.5 hours. This helps us to determine whether chiropractic or acupuncture or other therapy is appropriate for your pet. Follow-up visits do not usually take this much time.

We ask that you please arrive 5-10 minutes early for the first visit to complete the paperwork required. Please bring any information pertinent to the reason for your pet's visit. This may include radiographs, MRIs, or blood work results, among other documentation of medical history. The doctor needs to evaluate past medical information to make an accurate assessment of your pet. If possible, sending this ahead of the scheduled visit would give the doctor time to review the relative information.

Our technicians will collect information regarding your pet's current health status, along with a current weight. A temperature and complete medical history will be gathered by the technician and reviewed by the doctor. Then the patient will be examined by the doctor, including a full physical with limb palpation, and range of motion manipulation of all limbs if the animal is experiencing any mobility issues. (Sometimes this is forgone if the animal is very fractious.) The exam is crucial to evaluating what modalities will aid the client and patient in achieving optimum health of the pet.

After all this information has been assembled by the veterinarian, the holistic treatment plan will be discussed and agreed upon by the owner and doctor. Initial treatment may be implemented at this appointment. The plan may include acupuncture, electroacupuncture, aquapuncture, chiropractic, applied kinesiology, nutritional supplements, herbal medicines and diet modification. It is important to continue treatment as agreed upon (we won't send you home with any instructions which you have not approved). It is recommended to commit mentally to 8 acupuncture treatments to properly evaluate if this modality will improve your pet's condition significantly. The frequency of future appointments is determined on the patient's condition at the time of the consultation, and will usually become less frequent as the condition improves. Most holistic modalities will NOT incur a response on the first or second visit. It takes time to help the body heal itself.

If any questions or concerns arise before, during or after your consultation, please feel free to address these with any member of our staff. We will do our utmost to make your visit with our clinic an inviting and inspiring experience.