



Gentle Vet
Dr. Rhea Dodd, DVM, MA
IVAS Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist

info@gentle-vet.com
(303) 919-1504



Rhea Dodd, DVM, MA, CVA

Do you want to enjoy a happier, healthier life with pets?

Discover Pet Care The Gentle Vet Way

Veterinary Acupuncture and Behavior Solutions for longer, fuller lives. More joy, less pain, renewed closeness, harmony of body and mind.

Contact

To serve you better, Gentle Vet is now available for patient care Tuesday-Friday at several Metro Denver locations. For details, call **(303) 919-1504** or email us at info@gentle-vet.com.

Gentle Vet, P.C.
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About

Gentle Vet is a peerless practice, focusing on acupuncture and behavior solutions for pets of all breeds and ages. Our mission is to relieve emotional and physical suffering in animals, creating happier families and healthier pets.

Dr. Rhea Dodd, DVM, MA, IVAS Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist, a.k.a. Gentle Vet, earned her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University in 1992, and holds a Master's Degree in behavioral ecology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She became certified in Veterinary Acupuncture in 2001, and was then selected to help teach the acupuncture course at Colorado State University.

Dr. Dodd has advanced training in behavioral medicine and has 15 years clinical experience solving animal behavior problems. She has trained her own dogs in obedience, rally-O, agility and sheep herding.

In addition to treating patients, Dr. Dodd lectures, teaches and writes about pet behavior and alternative therapies. She has been featured on 9News, WB2, Channel 4, in the Denver Post, the Rocky Mountain News, the Denver Daily News and Colorado Parent. She is a popular speaker for such organizations as the Denver Dumb Friends League, the Cat Care Society, the Denver Veterinary Medical Association and Freedom Service Dogs.



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Practice

Acupuncture

Veterinary medical acupuncture is the insertion of hair-thin needles at specific points in the body to create a physiological response. By activating the central nervous system, acupuncture releases the body's natural painkillers (endorphins), hormones (cortisol) and neurotransmitters (serotonin), thereby affecting all systems of the body. Harnessing the body's own ability to cure itself, acupuncture not only heals illnesses but also rebalances your pet's emotions. After treatment your pet will feel relaxed and energized.

Behavior

Veterinary behavioral medicine involves the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems in pets. Vets have a detailed knowledge of behavior modifying medications which are often effective in treating fears, phobias and aggression. Through proper analysis, diagnosis and construction of a state-of-the-art treatment plan, owners discover how to effectively manage and modify the pet's condition. Behavior consultation only on referral by your Vet. Gentle Vet treats animals with empathy, humanity and common sense.



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Pets

Dogs

Gentle Vet knows your dogs are a part of the family and our services allow you to have more fun and live longer, fuller lives with them. We are dedicated to their health from puppyhood to adulthood, treating all forms of behavior and physical ailments. Our pain relief and behavior solutions enrich the quality of your dogs life with a pet-friendly and people-friendly approach.

Cats

Your choice of a veterinarian is an extremely important decision that could profoundly affect the quality of care that your pet receives. Gentle Vet takes a holistic approach to cat care by understanding and treating the symptoms to restore your cat's health. We strive to support that personal bond and give your cat the treatment it needs.

Services include:

- Private Consultation
- Acupuncture Treatment
- Behavior Modification
- Risk Assessment
- State-of-the-Art Training Methods
- Therapeutic Medications
- Veterinary Seminar/Workshops

Gentle Vet fosters healing and understanding between pets and their families.



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Vets

In Office Service

Dr. Rhea Dodd's behavioral knowledge and integrative pain management services are proven to be valuable adjunct to many general veterinary practices. The following services are available to help you keep your patients healthy and happy:

Integrative Pain Management, utilizing evidence-based medicine

Acupuncture: Decrease pain and improve circulation and healing

Massage and Range of Motion: Promote circulation, mobility and cartilage nutrition

Nutritional Therapy: Weight management and safe, natural anti-inflammatories

Therapeutic Exercise: Specific strengthening protocols

Behavioral Medicine, utilizing scientifically-based protocols: By veterinary referral only

Behavioral Diagnosis and Humane Treatment: restore pet-guardian bond

Risk Assessment: evaluate pet temperament and behavioral prognosis

Pharmacological Intervention: decrease anxiety and aggression

Free Consultation with referring DVMs

Workshops

Gentle Vet workshop series trains veterinary staff on a wide range of holistic veterinary medicine topics from behavior, nutrition and acupuncture to waiting and treatment room protocol and environment.

Gentle Vet excels at forging solid partnerships with vets, pet suppliers and animal care professionals.



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Workshops

Private

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Public

Dr. Rhea Dodd truly cares about the animals in her community and makes a great contribution to their welfare by educating owners so that they can better care for their pets. She is adept at choosing topics that are relevant and interesting to the public and she presents material in a way that is both easy to understand and fun to listen to. She connects well with her audience, conveying complex material without ever talking down to them.



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FAQ's

[Frequently Asked Questions: Acupuncture Therapy](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions: Behavioral Therapy](#)

Acupuncture Therapy FAQ's

Can acupuncture be used to treat my pet?

The World Health Organization has determined that acupuncture is an effective therapy for over 200 clinical conditions, including:

- back pain
- neck and shoulder pain
- traumatic injuries (promotes healing and reduces pain)
- sprains
- osteoarthritis
- respiratory problems
- digestive problems
- nervous system disorders

Acupuncture also helps induce a deep state of relaxation, which enhances healing.

How many treatments are necessary?

Depending on the condition, a series of 3-4 initial appointments are scheduled about a week apart. Patients are then weaned to the longest effective treatment interval, typically about once a month.

Does acupuncture hurt?

Most pets find acupuncture virtually painless. The needles are hair-thin and the relaxed pace of longer appointments help put you and your pet at ease.

How do you get the pet to sit still for treatment?

We use soft music, a cushy bed, aroma therapy, massage and very tasty treats to help your pet relax for therapy. At most, light restraint is used, but most pets cooperate with treatment because it is pleasant and helps them feel better.

How much experience does Dr. Dodd have?

Dr. Dodd has been a veterinarian for 15 years. She was trained in acupuncture at CSU, then helped teach the course for 2 years. She was certified through the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society in 2001. She sees approximately 20-30 acupuncture patients a week, giving her more experience than most general practitioners.

Is acupuncture safe?

Yes. Acupuncture has no unwanted side effects and does not interfere with any conventional medical treatment. We use only sterile, single-use needles.

How is Oriental medicine compatible with Western medicine?

Both Western and Oriental Medicine have their respective strengths and weaknesses, and both systems may be used together. Our goal is to use the most effective therapy with the fewest side effects to enhance the health and vitality of our patients.



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How do I schedule and appointment?

Please call (303) 919-1504 for a listing of several Metro Denver locations where you can schedule an appointment.

Behavioral Therapy FAQ's

Will behavioral therapy help my pet?

For almost all problems, the chances of improvement are very good. Dr. Dodd will evaluate your pet and give a reasonable prognosis for degree of improvement. The level of rehabilitation depends on the pet's condition, temperament, the living situation and your ability to comply with the therapy. However, similar to human psychotherapy, no one can ethically give a guarantee for your pet's complete behavioral recovery.

Why should our family choose Dr. Dodd?

In short, because of her expertise. Dr. Dodd is the leading veterinary behavior consultant in the state of Colorado, with 15 years clinical experience in resolving animal behavior problems. She has a detailed working knowledge of medications that may be helpful to your pet. Her diagnoses are based on many years of experience, high-level training and a logical and practical approach to problem resolution. She is not only competent, but is compassionate to the needs of the pet and family. Her fees reflect this level of caring, capability and education.

What does treatment consist of?

Treatment is based on state of the art behavior modification, using dog- and family-friendly methods. Counter-conditioning, desensitization, shaping, gentle corrections and management are the cornerstones of our successful behavior rehabilitation programs. You will be taught effective leadership and pet parenting skills to increase desired behaviors and decrease problem behaviors. The action plan empowers you by giving you structure and a clear understanding of expectations and outcomes.

How many appointments are necessary?

Usually, three appointments are scheduled to get behavior modification underway. For many families, this is enough. Occasionally, additional follow-up appointments are needed for ongoing coaching.

What does the consultation fee include?

The consultation fee includes the initial phone interview, time spent with you and your pet, coaching, a detailed, written treatment plan, behavioral prognosis, scientifically accurate handouts and consultation with your primary care veterinarian.

How do I schedule and appointment?

Please call (303) 919-1504 to schedule your initial phone interview. A credit card is necessary to secure your initial appointment. Your veterinarian or trainer should also call this number to leave a detailed behavioral history. After the initial phone appointment, Dr. Dodd will send you handouts pertinent to your pet's problem. At this point, we schedule an in-person visit, as soon as possible, and begin problem resolution. Follow-up appointments are then scheduled as needed.



IN-CLINIC BEHAVIOR WORKSHOPS

GENERAL TOPICS

- Behavior modification techniques
- Rewards: learning and reinforcement
- Behavior problems of older pets
- Children and pets
- Selecting a pet
- Decreasing patient stress in the veterinary clinic
- Bite prevention in the veterinary clinic
- Behavioral drug therapy
- Behavior management products

CANINE TOPICS

- Barking
- Biting: play biting and mouthing
- Destructiveness: chewing
- Destructiveness: digging
- Excitable and disobedient dogs
- House-soiling
- Housing your pet safely
 - A) Crate-training puppies
 - B) Crate-training adults
- Pulling, chasing, jumping up
- Punishment
- Puppy: getting started – house training guide
- Puppy: training basics
- Puppy training: taking charge
- Socialization of the new puppy
- Stealing: teaching “give”
- Teaching: sit, down, stand, stay
- Teaching: come, wait, follow

FELINE TOPICS

- Destructiveness: chewing, etc.
- House-soiling: inappropriate elimination
- Marking (spraying)
- Nocturnal activity, excessive
- Play, investigation and cat proofing
- Punishment
- Scratching (and declawing)
- Socialization of the new cat
- Vocalization, excessive

Other workshops and client handouts can be developed to address specific clinic needs. Please call for details.



Vet Services Fact Sheet

Are you frustrated by having to euthanize patients for chronic pain or behavioral problems? Do you ever wish you had a reliable resource within the veterinary community to help with these patients? If so, allow me to help you expand what you can offer, while safely keeping your patients within your practice.

My name is Rhea Dodd, DVM, MA, IVAS Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist. I own Gentle Vet. P.C., a practice exclusively devoted to quality of life care. I am a general practitioner with a special interest in behavior and integrative medicine.

The following services are available to help you keep your patients healthy and happy:

Integrative Pain Management, utilizing evidence-based medicine

- **Acupuncture:** Decreases pain and improves circulation and healing
- **Massage and Range of Motion:** Promotes circulation, mobility and cartilage nutrition
- **Nutritional Therapy:** Weight management and safe, natural anti-inflammatories
- **Therapeutic Exercise:** Specific strengthening protocols

Behavioral Medicine, utilizing scientifically-based protocols: *By veterinary referral only*

- **Behavioral Diagnosis and Humane Treatment:** to restore the pet-guardian bond
- **Risk Assessment:** to evaluate the pet's temperament and behavioral prognosis
- **Pharmacological Intervention:** useful for decreasing anxiety and aggression
- **Lectures, Seminars and Workshops:** for public, staff and veterinary education
- **Free Consultation with referring DVM's:** I can be reached at (303) 919-1504 to discuss case management issues (at no charge to the DVM).

Importantly, I provide only pain management and behavioral services, and will never assume the role of primary care veterinarian. All lab-work, radiography, medical procedures, prescription medications and general care will be referred back to you.

At Gentle Vet, our mission is to decrease physical and emotional suffering in pets, and to promote understanding between pets and their families. I know this is your goal too; please feel free to let me know how I can help.

Behavioral medicine:

For behavioral care I utilize scientifically based protocols, as well as gentle and safe management techniques. In addition to my DVM, I have a Master's Degree in Behavioral Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and 15 years clinical experience in behavioral medicine.

Treatment involves state-of-the-art behavioral care, including counter-conditioning, desensitization, relaxation exercises, programs for deference, interruption and redirection, positive reinforcement training, physical management and therapeutic medication.

By referring to another veterinarian you transfer liability to Gentle Vet, which is a great advantage to you. You know you are getting top level care for these often life-threatening behavioral conditions. If drug therapy is necessary, I will call you directly to discuss options. All follow-up lab work and monitoring stays within your practice.



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You will be kept in the loop with detailed follow-up on your patient's treatment plan and progress

How it works—as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Refer your patient to me by calling my voice mail at (303) 919-1504 to leave a history of the problem.
2. The client may then call (303) 919-1504 to set up an initial phone appointment at one of several Metro Denver locations.
3. We then schedule an in-person visit to initiate the behavior rehabilitation process.

Thank you for your referrals, and please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Acupuncture Therapies:

In addition to behavioral therapy, I offer holistic services, utilizing evidence-based complementary medicine. My acupuncture training includes 7 years clinical experience, IVAS Certification, a Teaching Assistantship, a Clinical Preceptorship, and competitive selection as an examiner for CSU's 140 hour course in Basic Acupuncture.

Medical Acupuncture Applications:

- Osteoarthritis/ Degenerative Joint Disease
- Hip and other dysplasias
- Bridging spondylosis
- Chronic and acute pain
- Pre- and Post- surgical pain
- Tendonitis
- Muscle Strains and Sprains
- Fibrocartilaginous Emboli
- Neuropathies
- Lumbo-sacral disease
- Wobblers
- Intervertebral Disc Disease type I-IV
- Other musculo-skeletal problems
- Geriatric "revitalization"
- Seizures
- Incontinence
- Renal Failure
- Cancer
- Spraying cats
- Lick granulomas
- Feline overgrooming
- Feline hyperesthesia syndrome

Thank you for your referrals, and please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.



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KUDOS

I have known and worked with Dr. Rhea Dodd for the past 15 years. I have referred more than 200 patients and clients for behavioral services and have been thoroughly pleased with her work. My clients have been more than satisfied with her knowledge, support, and therapeutic success. In addition to Dr. Dodd's clinical work, I have found her to be a substantial resource for behavioral information; telephone consultation with Dr. Dodd has increased my understanding of the discipline in order to more effectively counsel my clients for behavioral referral.

- Patrice M. Mich, DVM DipABVP (canine/feline) Colorado State University

I have been sending my behavior cases to Dr. Dodd for years. My clients love her and have benefited in every case from her expertise. Dr. Dodd's approach is practical and "user friendly". I have learned a tremendous amount from Dr. Dodd's consultations and I can honestly say that she has saved many of my patient's lives when euthanasia was being considered as the only solution for serious behavior problems. I consider her an asset to my practice and a great resource for my clients."

- Cindy Wallis, DVM, Glenwood Springs, CO

Dr. Rhea Dodd's behavioral knowledge and services have proven to be valuable adjuncts to my general practice. Over the years, Rhea has helped my clients with a variety of canine and feline behavior problems, including aggression, and complicated multi-cat inappropriate urination. In these cases, Rhea effectively communicated with me as well as my clients. She is professional and a pleasure to work. My overall satisfaction with Rhea's work has been very high.

- Lynn D'Agostino D.V.M.



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PUBLIC BEHAVIOR WORKSHOPS

GENERAL TOPICS

- Behavior modification techniques
- Rewards: learning and reinforcement
- Behavior problems of older pets
- Children and pets
- Selecting a pet

CANINE TOPICS

- Barking
- Biting: play biting and mouthing
- Destructiveness: chewing
- Destructiveness: digging
- Excitable and disobedient dogs
- House-soiling
- Housing your pet safely
 - A) Crate-training puppies
 - B) Crate-training adults
- Pulling, chasing, jumping up
- Punishment
- Puppy: getting started – house training guide
- Puppy: training basics
- Puppy training: taking charge
- Socialization of the new puppy
- Stealing: teaching “give”
- Teaching: sit, down, stand, stay
- Teaching: come, wait, follow

FELINE TOPICS

- Destructiveness: chewing, etc.
- House-soiling: inappropriate elimination
- Nocturnal activity, excessive
- Play, investigation and cat proofing
- Punishment
- Scratching (and declawing)
- Socialization of the new cat
- Vocalization, excessive

Other workshops can be developed to address specific audience needs. Please call for details.



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Recommended Pet and Vet Care Resources

Veterinary Organizations

AltVetMed.org - www.altvetmed.org
American Animal Hospital Association - www.healthypet.com
Denver Dumb Friends League - www.ddfl.org
Veterinary Botanical Medical Association - www.vbma.org

Pet Care Resources

Cat Fencing www.purrfectfence.com
Dog and Cat Wheelchairs www.eddieswheels.com, www.wheelchairsfordogs.com, www.doggon.com
Handicapped or Elderly Pets - www.handicappedpets.com
Non-skid booties – www.seniorpetproducts.com

Healthy Pet Supplements

Rx Vitamins www.rxvitamins.com/pets

Hospice and In-Home Euthanasia Care

Ann Brandenburg Schroeder, DVM – www.besidestillwater.net

Grief Counseling and Resources

Argus Center at CSU - www.argusinstitute.colostate.edu
Delta Society - www.deltasociety.org
Human Animal Bond Trust - www.humananimalbondtrust.org

Community Service Groups

Freedom Service Dogs – www.freedom servicedogs.org

Dog Bite Prevention

Coalition for Living Safely with Dogs - <http://www.colovma.com>

Local Pet Stores

Cosmos, 10210 W. 26th Ave #12, Lakewood, CO 80215, (303) 866-2039
Gold'n Paws, 710 Golden Ridge Road, Golden, CO 80401, (303) 278-8566
Lewis & Bark, 5664 S. Prince St., Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 347-6370
Paws N Play, 7403 Grandview Avenue, Arvada, CO 80002 (303) 420-2525 www.pawsnplay.net
Pet Empawrium, 12393 West 64th Ave, Arvada, CO 80004, (303) 467-7777 www.petempawrium.com
Pets N Stuff, 7777 W. Jewell Ave., Lakewood CO 80232 (303) 989-5380



Behavior Fact Sheet

Veterinary behavioral medicine involves the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems in companion animals. Veterinarians have a detailed knowledge of behavior modifying medications which are often effective in treating fears, phobias and aggression.

Through proper analysis, diagnosis and construction of a state-of-the-art treatment plan, owners discover how to effectively manage and modify the pet's condition.

For continuity of care, **behavior consultation is provided only after you have been referred by your veterinarian.** The primary care veterinarian is informed of the treatment plan and kept abreast of the patient's progress.

All psychological conditions in dogs or cats have been successfully treated, no matter how long-standing or serious the problem.

Dr. Dodd is results-oriented, pet-friendly and fosters understanding between pets and their families.

Conditions treated:

- Separation anxiety
- Fears
- Phobias
- Aggression
- House-soiling
- Senility
- Obsessive-compulsive disorders
- Self-mutilation

Services include:

- Private Consultation
- Behavior Modification
- Risk Assessment
- State-of-the-Art Training Methods
- Therapeutic Medications

SCHEDULE

First appointment is a phone consultation to collect relevant information about the problem. You then receive scientifically accurate literature to help you understand your pet's problem. Allow 1 hour.

Second appointment is an office visit where the behavioral diagnosis is made and treatment plan is explained and initiated. Allow 1 hour.

Third appointment to be sure your pet is making progress is conducted via phone or as an office visit. Allow 30 minutes, or 1 hour for aggression.

Feline Litterbox consultations include 1.5 hours total appointment time



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BEHAVIOR KUDOS

As a professional dog trainer I am often dealing with behavioral issues. There are occasions where I need information, and Dr. Dodd, is a wonderful resource for information with behavioral problems. Often times I send my clients to her when medication may be needed as part of the behavior modification process. I know I can refer my client to Dr. Dodd and they will receive compassionate and professional care from her.

Lisa Sickles, APDT Certified dog trainer

We consulted Dr. Dodd for behavioral issues with our cats, Itty Bitty and Chloe and our dog Scrapper. Her knowledge of both cat and dog behavior is outstanding and her recommendations has been incredibly helpful. Plus, her follow up and continued interest in how our furry children are doing is second to none. She has been a true blessing for us and our furry children!

- Natalie and Robert, Pet Parents



Acupuncture Fact Sheet

Veterinary medical acupuncture is the insertion of hair-thin needles at specific points in the body to create a physiological response. By activating the central nervous system, acupuncture releases the body's natural painkillers (endorphins), hormones (cortisol) and neurotransmitters (serotonin), thereby affecting all systems of the body. Harnessing the body's own ability to cure itself, Acupuncture not only heals illnesses but also rebalances your pet's emotions. Integrative pain management service includes:

- Acupuncture: Decreases pain and improves circulation and healing
- Massage and Range of Motion: Promotes circulation, mobility and cartilage nutrition
- Nutritional Therapy: Weight management and safe, natural anti-inflammatories
- Therapeutic Exercise: Specific strengthening protocols

After treatment your pet will feel relaxed and energized.

Medical Acupuncture Applications:

- Osteoarthritis/ Degenerative Joint Disease
- Hip and other dysplasias
- Bridging spondylosis
- Chronic and acute pain
- Pre- and Post- surgical pain
- Tendonitis
- Muscle Strains and Sprains
- Fibrocartilaginous Emboli
- Neuropathies
- Lumbo-sacral disease
- Wobblers
- Intervertebral Disc Disease type I-IV
- Other musculo-skeletal problems
- Geriatric "revitalization"
- Seizures
- Incontinence
- Renal Failure
- Cancer
- Spraying cats
- Lick granulomas
- Feline overgrooming
- Feline hyperesthesia syndrome

SCHEDULE

First appointment is an office visit, which includes the initial treatment, an assessment and medical review of and formulation of an individualized treatment plan to address your pet's condition. Allow 1 hour.

Subsequent appointments are office visits to continue acupuncture therapy. Allow 1/2 hour.

For most conditions, patients are seen once a week, for 3-4 weeks, then about once a month.



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ACUPUNCTURE KUDOS

Thanks for EVERYTHING you have done for Labbie and us. We admire your work with animals and love you for your concern and tender care.

- Sandie, Dog Owner

You are always so caring, so absolutely expert, a great teacher to me—I'm a better caregiver because of you—so sweet and loving to my dogs. Your kindness and caring about me as well are so evident. There's no doubt in my mind that you gave Cassie more years. She and I are eternally grateful.

- Bev, Dog Owner

I want to thank you for the kind and gentle care you gave Dudley. What you did for him allowed him to stay with me a while longer. That was great gift.

- Diane, Dog Owner