**Holistic Options for Pets with Neuromuscular Disorders**

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is being explored by more and more certified medical practitioners, including neurologists. The fact that many intelligent brain surgeons are open-minded enough to explore TCM should deter skepticism from others.

Acupuncture is helpful for a wide range of muscular disorders, including limping, paralysis, paresis, tremors, slipped discs, spinal abnormalities, seizures, and vertigo.

When the nerves or muscles are not working properly, few allopathic remedies are effective, apart from anti-inflammatory drugs. But herbs and acupuncture provide options that can moderate the progression of a degenerative condition and, at times, resolve an issue entirely.

Pain control and post-surgical healing are two common reasons acupuncture is sought as a treatment option for neuromuscular disorders. TCM techniques such as electro-acupuncture and tui na energy massage are useful physical therapies.

Electro-acpuncture, or “e-stim” for short, involves needling in acupressure points but with electrodes connected. These send electric currents through the body to stimulate the nerves and muscles. E-stim is similar to a tens unit used in human physical therapy, except that the acupuncture needles reach layers beneath the epidermal skin. Different frequencies of the current can be utilized for multiple pain-relieving and nerve communication effects within the body.

In tui na, a gentle range of motion exercise is combined with intentional healing meditation. Because energy is referred to as “qi” in TCM, tui na is sometimes called qi gong tui na when performed by an experienced gi gong practitioner who emphasizes and understands the conscious intentionality and energetic component of the treatment. Often this technique achieves subtle musculoskeletal adjustments similar to chiropractic medicine.