



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE LTD

As Trustee for ACVA Foundation ABN 89 505 692 923

Australian IVAS Acupuncture Course

January 2018 to June 2019

The course is taught by an experienced team of dedicated lecturers, demonstrators and tutors and is divided into four terms, with weekly online lectures and online assignments. At the end of the first, second and third terms there are practical workshops at Marcus Oldham College in Geelong. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on developing practical skills of diagnosis and treatment techniques and treating clinical cases at the workshops and in the clinic.

Term 1

The first term teaches the theory of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). This basic theory is important for practitioners to be able to make a diagnosis and formulate an acupuncture treatment. Practical sessions during this section are very important in terms of point location and how to treat simple clinical conditions. The dog is used as the clinical model in the practical sessions.

In addition to TCM, the neurophysiology of acupuncture is explained and the latest research is discussed.

After completing Term 1, the students will be able to start treating cases as soon as they get back to their clinic. In between face to face workshops the students are required to complete assignments and keep a log of the cases they treat.

Term 2

The second term introduces advanced TCM theory. In this term the practical sessions use horses as well as dogs as the clinical models. Using different species allows the practitioner to transpose points to any species they are likely to treat.

The emphasis here is on clinical conditions, how to make a TCM diagnosis and treatment, particularly conditions of the musculoskeletal system which are the most common conditions treated with acupuncture.

After completing Term 2, the students will be able to treat more complex cases and continue to treat cases to add to their Case Log Book

Term 3

The third term focuses on clinical conditions in the dog and horse. Cats and cattle are also included. The clinical conditions include the musculoskeletal, respiratory, cardiac, gastrointestinal, urinary, reproductive tract and behaviour. These are discussed in detail and examples are given of the conditions that respond well to acupuncture.

Term 4

During term 4 the clinical conditions are completed and extra lectures include an introduction to dietary therapy, ear acupuncture, gold bead implants and Chinese Herbs.

Workshops

At the end of Terms 1, 2 and 3 face to face workshops are held at Marcus Oldham Agricultural College which has all the facilities needed for the course. Live in accommodation with full board, lecture theatres and horse and dog handling facilities for the practical sessions. Our experience over the past 24 years of providing acupuncture training has reinforced the importance of these face to face, hands on practical workshops.

An analogy that veterinarians will all be familiar with is that of surgery. How confident would you feel if you were to do your first spay after just hearing a lecture or reading a textbook. How much more confident would you be if you had a mentor to show you the subtleties of the surgical technique. This analogy also applies to acupuncture where the art of palpation to make a diagnosis and treatment is as vital as the needling technique.

Examination

One month after completion of the course, there is a written and practical examination. In addition to the examinations, the students are required submit a Case Log Book of 10 cases and write two in depth Case Reports which have been treated with acupuncture. Once all the requirements for IVAS Certification have been completed, graduates will be confident in making a TCM diagnosis and formulating a treatment for a variety of clinical conditions.

IVAS graduates find that looking at a clinical case from a TCM point of view will often explain a condition for which there is no medical explanation or diagnosis. While a few graduates exclusively treat cases only with acupuncture, most use it as an adjunct to their normal clinical diagnosis and treatment. The Australian Veterinary Acupuncture Group (AVAG) encourages its graduates to use acupuncture in addition to their medical and surgical skills to provide a better outcome for their patients.

Since 1991 there have been 10 Australian IVAS courses held in Australia with over 475 graduates from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Japan.

The Australian College of Veterinary Acupuncture Ltd (ACVA) is a non-profit organisation that was formed in 2013 to continue to deliver the outstanding Australian IVAS Acupuncture Course for veterinarians in Australia, Asia and the Pacific region. The Directors of ACVA include Dr. Ulrike Wurth, Dr. Carl Muller, who have run 10 courses in Australia during the last 34 years. They have been joined by Dr. Susan Peden, Dr. Elissa Marriott, Dr. Barry Haywood, Dr. Bob Clippingdale, Dr. Nathalie Jugovic, Dr. Diane Gibney, Graham Hobbs and Bill Rae.

As the Australian IVAS Affiliate, the AVAG is excited to be contracting the improved online and on-site Australian IVAS Acupuncture Course through the ACVA.

If you would like some more information contact the course coordinator Bill Rae contact@vetacupcollege.com.au or visit www.vetacupcollege.com.au for more information and the course brochure.