



# MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE

## FOR VETERINARIANS

Presented and directed by Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA  
President and CEO, CuraCore Integrative Medicine & Education Center

Includes Online Course for 1 Year, 6-Day Onsite Clinical Intensive, and Case Report Evaluation



### Certification Requirements:

All online modules completed prior to the Clinical Intensive

Passing grade on all assessments (= 70% or higher)

Successful completion of onsite Clinical Intensive

Case Report(s) accepted after review by Dr. Robinson

## RACE approved

### SMALL ANIMAL TRACK

130 Continuing Education Hours

### LARGE ANIMAL TRACK

127 Continuing Education Hours

### DUAL TRACK

167.5 Continuing Education Hours

A scientific and contemporary approach to acupuncture based on rational mechanisms of action and informed by evidence.



**CURACORE**  
INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE & EDUCATION CENTER

# WHERE VETERINARY MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE BEGAN. MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO.

Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians (MAV) provides the leading source for comprehensive, critically evaluated, scientifically based, and evidence-informed instruction in veterinary medical acupuncture and its related techniques: photomedicine and massage.

Our highly acclaimed curriculum guides students through the basic science of acupuncture, neurophysiology, and neuromodulation. We also emphasize the central significance of myofascial palpation as an indicator of pain and dysfunction. Learn how to appropriately implement Medical Acupuncture and Integrative Neuromodulation® (MAIN) techniques for these following conditions -

- Disk disease
- Spinal cord injury
- Back and neck pain
- Digestive disorders
- Cranial and peripheral neuropathy
- Lameness
- Voiding dysfunction
- Arthritis
- Athletic performance issues
- Immune dysfunction
- Reproductive disorders
- Post-surgical problems
- Recovery following trauma
- Dermatologic issues
- Ocular pain
- Cancer related problems
- Geriatric problems
- Rehabilitation

## SINGLE TRACK REGISTRATION

SMALL ANIMAL/EXOTICS OR EQUINE/FARM ANIMAL

10 ONLINE MODULES

6-DAY CLINICAL INTENSIVE

TECHNICAL SKILLS TUTORIALS

ONSITE AND ONLINE TESTING

ONE ONSITE RETEST IF NEEDED

LABORATORY MATERIALS

CASE REPORT

## DUAL TRACK REGISTRATION

SMALL ANIMAL/EXOTICS AND EQUINE/FARM ANIMAL

12 ONLINE MODULES

6-DAY CLINICAL INTENSIVE

TECHNICAL SKILLS TUTORIALS

ONSITE AND ONLINE TESTING

ONE ONSITE RETEST IF NEEDED

LABORATORY MATERIALS

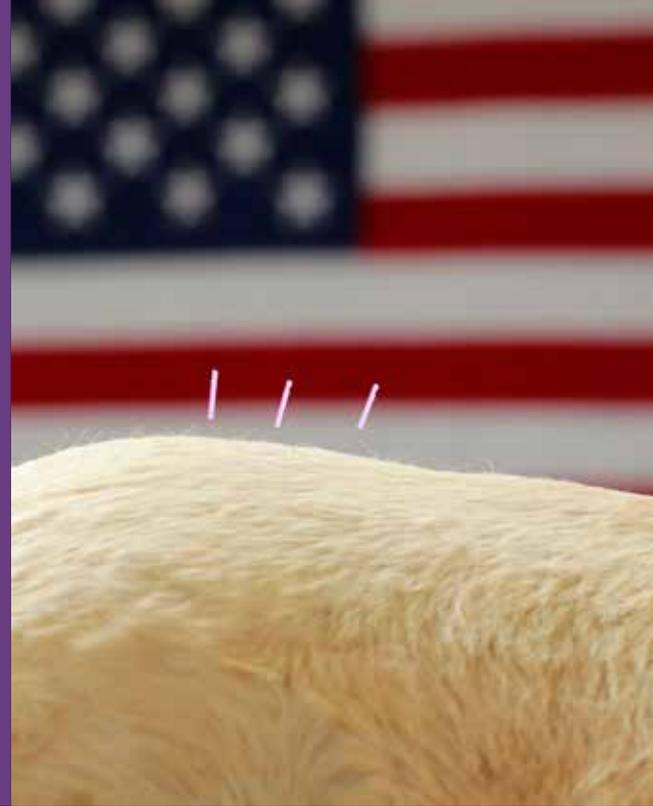
TWO CASE REPORTS



**ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY** - Registrants must be either licensed veterinarians or hold an equivalent credential such as serving as faculty in a veterinary college or fourth-year veterinary students with written permission from their college dean or dean's office.

# WHAT MAKES MAV THE PREMIER COURSE FOR VETERINARIANS?

- We've been enriching and refining our curriculum in scientific, evidence-based acupuncture for over two decades.
- Our online courses include professionally created videos offered through user-friendly and highly acclaimed learning management system.
- We encourage participants to examine patients more fully, to diagnose more accurately, and to treat patients less invasively. Better diagnoses lead to better outcomes



## 12 MODULES OF MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE FOR VETERINARIANS

### Module 1.

#### Overview of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques (3hr, 43min)

- Medical Acupuncture: Gain a better appreciation of its history, scope, and achievements.
- Surveying the Terrain: Learn how scientific, medical acupuncture and related techniques differ from other acupuncture approaches (Traditional Chinese Medicine, Japanese hara techniques, Korean hand acupuncture, auricular acupuncture, etc.).
- Biologic Basis of Personality: Consider the connection between genetics, behavior, and biology as seen through both ancient Chinese observations and modern medical interpretations.
- Introduction to the Channels and Points: Identify how nerves, vessels, and myofascia relate to acupuncture points and channels; explore the structure-function relationships of acupuncture points and channels.
- Neural Relationships of Points and Channels: Understand how certain acupuncture points acquired their names; list the neuroanatomic relationships of specific points that have special significance in terms of neuromodulation.
- Acupuncture Safety and the Adverse Effects of Acupuncture: Describe ways to keep patients safe. Learn to discern the difference between acceptable and unacceptable acupuncture techniques.

### Module 2.

#### Acupuncture Analgesia through Connective Tissue and Neuromodulation Effects (2hrs)

- Begin with the Brain: Explain how acupuncture induces analgesia through brain-based changes.
- Brain Imaging in Health and Disease: Identify how visualizing brain activity could improve both diagnosis and treatment.
- Neuroimaging and Stimulation Studies: Outline research findings on functional brain imaging and acupuncture.
- Characterizing Acupuncture Stimuli Using Brain Imaging with fMRI - A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Literature: Compare and contrast fMRI studies involving acupuncture.
- Mechanisms of Acupuncture-Electroacupuncture on Persistent Pain: Identify biochemical mechanisms by which acupuncture and electroacupuncture counter nociceptive inputs through neuromodulation.
- A Framework for Understanding the Relationship between Descending Pain Modulation, Motor Corticospinal, and Neuroplasticity Regulation Systems in Chronic Myofascial Pain: Relate the multi-level changes in nervous system function secondary to chronic pain states.
- Acupuncture for Visceral Pain Neural Substrates and Potential Mechanisms: Elucidate ways in which acupuncture needling affects autonomic and visceral activity and thereby reduces visceral discomfort.

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- Dry Needling: a Literature Review with Implications for Clinical Practice Guidelines: Identify the research-based mechanisms and outcomes of dry needling.
- Understanding Myofascial Trigger Points: Know what produces and reverses myofascial trigger points.
- Using Acupuncture Analgesia in China: Gain perspective on the history and application of acupuncture in the perioperative setting in China.

## **Module 3.** **Acupuncture Neuromodulation – Updating Ancient Characterizations (3hr, 15min)**

- General Approaches to Neuromodulation: Develop a context for acupuncture intervention protocols, including both neuroanatomic and myofascial components.
- Somatovisceral and Viscerosomatic Connections: Summarize how needling the soma impacts internal organs and how internal organ dysfunction shows up in the soma.
- Cranial Nerves: Review the anatomy and physiology of the cranial nerves and how one might treat head and neck disorders through neuromodulation.
- Regional Points: Group acupuncture points according to their regional distribution and learn about their utility in clinical practice.
- Homeostatic Points: Identify the links between “master points” and autonomic nerve pathways.
- Influential Points: Critically analyze the anatomic basis and physiologic connections of the “8 Influential Points”.

## **Module 4.** **Canine and Equine Acupuncture Point Anatomy and Physiology; Comparative Human Discussions (11hr, 57min)**

- Neuroanatomic and Myofascial Significance of the Twelve Paired Channels and Two Midline Pathways: Pursue an in-depth exploration of the structure: Function attributes of commonly employed veterinary acupuncture points.
- Equine Limb Points: Compare and contrast points on the equine limb with those on the dog and human.

## **Module 5.** **Dry Needling and Electroacupuncture (2hr, 6 min)**

- Needling Basics: Equipment and Technical Aspects: Compare and contrast the structure of acupuncture needles.
- Needle Yourself: Begin to acquire skill in inserting needles in living tissue.
- What’s in a Stimulator? Key Features of Electroacupuncture Units: Become familiar with the “nuts and bolts” of electroacupuncture stimulators.
- Electroacupuncture Treatment Protocols: Learn how to most effectively deliver an electroacupuncture intervention.

## **Module 6.** **Acupuncture’s Related Technique: Soft Tissue Manual Therapy / Massage (1hr, 42min)**

- Historical Views on Massage: Learn how massage was viewed from a medical perspective in ancient times.
- Myofascial Trigger Points: Identify the inciting and maintaining features of myofascial trigger points as well as how to eliminate them.
- Human Demonstration Identifying and Treating Trigger Points: Describe the process of locating and treating trigger points with dry needling.
- Massage: Science and Evidence: Examine the scientific rationale and evidential support for massage and related manual therapy approaches.
- Client Education Demonstration on Canine Massage: Learn simple techniques in canine massage as they are taught to clients.
- Lasers vs. Acupuncture and Massage: Compare and contrast the mechanisms of action of these three physical medicine approaches.
- Arizona Animal Massage Therapists Sue for Access to Veterinary Patients: Explain the risks and benefits of non-veterinarians performing integrative therapies on animals in general, using massage therapy as an example.
- Tui Na: Chinese Massage or Something More? Differentiate between massage techniques and rationales from a scientific as opposed to a Traditional Chinese Medicine perspective.

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- A Special Touch for Dying Animals. Describe the value of soft tissue manual therapy as a supportive approach for hospice patients and/or prior to euthanasia.
- Acupuncture, Massage Can Get Gut Going: Identify overlapping mechanisms of action on the digestive tract for massage and acupuncture.

## Module 7.

### Acupuncture's Related Technique: Laser Therapy (2hr, 8min)

- Photomedicine Physiology: Describe the biological effects of light on various tissues in the body.
- Clinical Applications of Laser Therapy in Veterinary Medicine: Recognize the clinical value of laser therapy in veterinary medicine.
- Laser Acupuncture: Identify the ways in which unfounded belief-system based acupuncture precepts have influenced the field of laser acupuncture.
- Laser Therapy for Intervertebral Disk Disease (IVDD): Describe the beneficial effects of laser therapy for IVDD in dogs.
- Tips on Selecting a Laser Therapy Unit: Compare and contrast different types of photomedicine devices.

## Module 8.

### Acupuncture Clinic (6hr, 31min)

- Ocular Disorders: Develop neuromodulation protocols for a variety of disorders affecting the head and neck. Consider local/peripheral, central, and autonomic nervous system routes of intervention. Consider myofascial contributors to the problem and ways to address them.
- Digestive Disorders: Review the evidence of scientific medical acupuncture and related techniques for neuromodulation of functional digestive disorders. Gain experience developing neuromodulation protocols for veterinary patients with digestive difficulties. Remember that these approaches are part of an integrative treatment for the entire individual.
- Cancer: Review documented ways in which acupuncture may benefit patients with cancer and debunk myths about acupuncture and cancer.

- Neck and Back Pain: Review the evidence of acupuncture and related techniques for back and neck pain.
- Spinal Cord Injury: Learn why more veterinarians are re-evaluating what constitutes "standard of care" for conditions such as intervertebral disk disease in dogs. Review the evolving landscape regarding standard of care for spinal cord injury and how it is changing as a result of the growing popularity of medical acupuncture and related techniques.
- Dermatologic Problems: Investigate causes and treatments of dermatologic disorders from a psychoneuroimmunologic perspective.
- Immune System Issues: Discuss interactions between the immune system, psyche, and neural tissues, i.e., psychoneuroimmunology. Review the anatomy of the immune system. Review the evidence for acupuncture and related techniques in immune dysfunction.
- Cardiac problems: Learn how scientific, medical acupuncture and related techniques aid the body in recovering cardiac balance. Review the ways in which cardiovascular anatomy and physiology translate into neuromodulation and physical medicine practice. Examine the evidence for acupuncture and related techniques for cardiac issues.
- Respiratory Conditions: Learn how knowledge about respiratory anatomy and physiology translates into neuromodulation and physical medicine practice. Review the anatomy of the respiratory system (upper and lower), and examine the evidence for acupuncture and related techniques with respect to respiratory challenges.
- Urogenital Dysfunction: Review the neuroanatomy of the urogenital system -- kidney, bladder and reproductive organs - examine the scientific evidence for acupuncture and related techniques.
- Neurologic Disorders: Learn how to address neurologic problems such as seizures, sleep disorders, nerve injury, and pain.

NOTE: Our curriculum evolves as new information becomes available. The material contained herein is thus subject to change as needed in order to optimize your education.

## EQUINE/FARM ANIMAL - DUAL TRACK

### Module 9. Equine Acupuncture (6hr)

- Core Equine Points: Learn how to locate clinically meaningful acupuncture points based on palpation and proportional measurements.
- The Equine Acupuncture Myofascial Evaluation: Consider the history of channel palpation from Japan. Understand how a medical acupuncturist performs the evaluation and interprets the results. Learn how to perform an equine acupuncture myofascial examination and how to interpret the results.
- Getting Started with Equine Acupuncture: Identify features of the equine patient that would make that individual a good first case. Emphasize safety and gentleness. Learn which needle types to obtain for your acupuncture “basic tool kit”.
- Equine Biopsychotypes: Explore how personality may relate to clinical conditions as described in Chinese philosophy and how it could potentially apply to horses.
- Using Acupuncture as Part of an Integrative Strategy to Diagnose and Treat Equine Back Pain: Learn how to approach patients with equine back pain in ways that utilize medical acupuncture.
- Equine Field Neurologic Evaluation: Identify neurologic disorders more quickly “in the field” and develop a diagnostic or treatment plan to address them.
- Equine Rehabilitation: Discover ways to help restore functional mobility and proper movement to horses in the field. Learn simple maneuvers to teach to clients that may help maintain their horse’s improvements.
- Equine Gastrointestinal Dysfunction: Examine the ways in which acupuncture can treat various problems related to the gastrointestinal tract. Critically review integrative approaches for horses with digestive issues.
- Saddle Fit Issues Related to Back Pain: Identify the features and resolution of saddle misfit. Learn to create “Saddle Misfit Identifiers.” Describe anatomical structures affected by saddle misfit. Introduce saddle parts and terminology to facilitate communication with owners and saddlers.
- Equine Lameness: Diagnosis and Acupuncture Treatment. Expand the diagnostic approach by evaluating the whole horse as well as the lame limb.

### Module 10. Farm Animal Acupuncture (4hr, 16min)

- Acupuncture and Pulmonary Hypertension: Learn about the pathophysiology of pulmonary hypertension in bovidae, i.e., High Mountain Disease and ways to provide adjunctive support with acupuncture-based neuromodulation.
- Acupuncture for Animals Used for Food and Fiber: Review the workup and neuroanatomic acupuncture approach for various conditions afflicting animals used for food and fiber.
- Acupuncture for Reproductive Problems in Farm Animals: Develop a systematic approach to treating reproductive disorders with medical acupuncture. Review the associated neuroanatomical connections, neuroendocrine components, and psychological contributions to reproductive physiology.

## SMALL ANIMAL/EXOTICS - DUAL TRACK

### Module 11. Small and Exotic Animal Acupuncture (10hr, 50min)

- Anorectic Cats: Review the causes of anorexia in cats. Construct neuromodulation and myofascial treatment approaches based on the diagnosis.
- “Catupuncture” (Feline Acupuncture): Approach cats correctly and they will tolerate acupuncture well. Learn what cats need to feel safe and relaxed. In so doing, you will better understand feline patients. Reduce pain, improve gastrointestinal motility, address musculoskeletal issues and treat urinary disorders.
- Exotic Animal Acupuncture: From hedgehogs to raptors to turtles, snakes, and iguanas, learn how acupuncture and related techniques offer important healing options for exotic animals. Identify safe handling techniques for exotic animals.
- Neurologic Examination and Acupuncture: Refine your ability to determine the site of a neurologic lesion. Examine patients in a non-frightening manner. Remember that a relaxed patient provides more reliable and telling diagnostic information than does one that is stressed, hurting from your exam, or otherwise forced to comply.

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- Orthopedic “Clinic”: Consider orthopedic conditions from a comprehensive perspective, beyond the black-and-white world of what does or does not show up on radiographs. Recognize that somatic pain arises from a number of sources, such as the soft tissues and nerves.
- Neuromodulation in Orthopedic Disease: Discover ways to maximize patients’ endogenous healing capacity. Review research concerning nonsurgical approaches to orthopedic problems. Create multifaceted physical medicine and rehabilitation protocols. Offer much more to clients than merely drugs and surgery.
- Integrative Medicine for Birds and Bunnies: Determine safe and effective ways to introduce scientific medical acupuncture and related techniques for problems in avian and lagomorph patients.
- Physical Medicine and Integrative Pain Approaches: Learn how an integrative pain medicine perspective informs physical rehabilitation practice. Implement key steps in your rehab practice. Begin with a diagnosis. Identify limitations in performance. Create goals that address the impairment and eventually reduce the disability. Develop goal-directed interventions.
- Critical Review of the Evidence for Surgical vs. Non-Surgical Treatment of Suspected IVDD: Consider the impact of surgical versus nonsurgical approaches for spinal cord disease on the whole patient -- structurally, emotionally, and functionally, as well as on the entire family unit.
- Acupuncture in Critical Care and Internal Medicine: Explore ways to integrate scientific medical acupuncture and related techniques for the betterment of your patients’ health and recovery.

## Module 12.

### Acupuncture Approaches for Clinical Conditions (Variable time based on user ~ 1 hr)

- Acupuncture Clinic Case 1: Chief Complaint - Frequent Regurgitation
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 2: Chief Complaint - Uncontrollable Cluster Seizures
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 3: Chief Complaint - Left Forelimb Lameness
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 4: Chief Complaint - Funny Walk & Limp Tail
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 5: Chief Complaint - Thoracic Limb Lameness
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 6: Chief Complaint - Feather Picker
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 7: Chief Complaint - Can’t Jump into The Car Anymore
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 8: Chief Complaint - Pain Consult
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 9: Chief Complaint - Stuffy Nose
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 10: Chief Complaint - Difficulty Walking & Back Pain
- Acupuncture Clinic Case 11: Chief Complaint - Right Leg Lameness Consult



## Techniques Tutorials

### Equine / Farm Animal (3 hr)

- Equine Big Points (39min)
- Equine Regional Points (49min)
- Electroacupuncture & Myofascial Palpation etc. (1hr, 33min)

### Small Animal / Exotics (2hr, 30min)

- Canine Big Points (22min)
- Canine Regional Points (36min)
- Electroacupuncture & Myofascial Palpation etc. (1hr, 33min)

# YOUR NEXT STEP STARTS HERE

REGISTER AND BEGIN LEARNING TODAY.

[curacore.org/veterinary-acupuncture/](http://curacore.org/veterinary-acupuncture/)

**NEW for 2019!** All 2019 course registrants receive Dr. Robinson's human atlas - a monumental work that gives translational insight into the human acupuncture matrix from which the veterinary acupuncture points and channels derived their location.

*Interactive Medical Acupuncture Anatomy*

By Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA

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## **Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA**

Dr. Robinson is a leading authority on scientific integrative medicine from a One Health perspective and has over two decades of practicing, teaching, and writing about integrative medical approaches in both veterinary and human osteopathic medicine.

In 1998, Dr. Robinson launched Colorado State University's first integrative medicine service and for eight years directed CSU's Center for Comparative and Integrative Pain Medicine. Over the past two decades, Dr. Robinson has taught a variety of popular, scientifically based continuing education courses, ranging from medical acupuncture and massage to herbology and photomedicine.

Dr. Robinson holds a Bachelor of Arts (AB) degree from Harvard/Radcliffe, a doctorate in osteopathic medicine (DO) from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, and a doctorate in veterinary medicine (DVM) and master's degree in biomedical sciences (MS) from the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She is a fellow within the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA). She also serves on the American Board of Medical Acupuncture, the board-certifying organization for physician medical acupuncturists, and the AAMA Board of Directors.



### **For More Information Contact:**

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