



## Syllabus: Medical Acupuncture for Veterinary Technicians

### CuraCore Integrative Medicine & Education Centers

#### Part 1: Course Information

Course Director: Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA. Email: [narda@curacore.org](mailto:narda@curacore.org)

#### Course Description:

Dr. Narda Robinson designed this course to improve veterinary technicians' ability to educate clients about ways in which acupuncture may reduce pain and support their animal's recovery.

As someone who engages directly with clients during intake exams and dismissals, technicians are perfectly positioned to cultivate awareness of rational, effective, and science-based medical approaches that may reduce reliance on potentially harmful medications and surgery.

#### Prerequisites

- [Veterinary technician training \(certification is NOT a requirement\)](#)
- [Veterinarians are also invited to enroll.](#)

#### Course Length

- 6 hours, application in process to RACE.

#### Course Requirements

- Internet connection
- Access to the Litmos Learning Management System (opens to new enrollees following admission to the program).

#### Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the Litmos learning management system. Students will access their Litmos account to login to the course through the link provided upon enrollment. In Litmos, students will access online modules, assessments, and additional resources.

#### Technical Assistance

If need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Litmos, please contact us at [Info@curacore.org](mailto:Info@curacore.org) . We usually respond quickly but in most cases within 24 hours.

## Part 2: Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to educate veterinary technicians on the mechanisms of action, indications, technical aspects, and evidential support related to medical acupuncture.

In accordance with the aforementioned goals, our objectives are as follows:

- Develop a scientific understanding of how acupuncture works neurophysiologically and from a connective tissue perspective.
- Compare and contrast medical acupuncture to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) style acupuncture.
- List the common indications for acupuncture in the veterinary setting.
- Describe the risks of medical acupuncture for the patient, client, and staff.
- Become acquainted with electroacupuncture units and how they operate.
- Be able to respond to client inquiries about acupuncture with confidence and from an informed perspective.
- Learn how to search the scientific medical databases for evidence concerning medical acupuncture and related techniques.

Course participants will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following self-paced activities: watching videos, completing reading assignments, and successfully responding to a series of assessments that contain either multiple choice questions, free text responses, or a combination of the two.

## Part 3: Topics Covered

- How acupuncture fits into a veterinary practice
- Dedication, compassion, and patient-centered care
- What is western medical acupuncture?
- How does medical acupuncture compare to Traditional Chinese Medicine?
- The neurophysiology of acupuncture
- The anatomy of acupuncture
- Neurobiological mechanisms of acupuncture for various medical problems
- The canine myofascial evaluation
- Needle size selection (diameter, length)
- Trigger point deactivation – methods and mechanisms
- Electroacupuncture units – how they work and what they do
- How to respond to client questions
- Top 10 ways to respond to integrative medicine skeptics
- How to search for scientific articles on acupuncture
- Legality of veterinary technicians practicing acupuncture

## **Part 4: Grading Policy**

### **Graded Course Activities**

Course participants must achieve a passing grade (>70%) on each assessment in order to pass that portion of the course. Multiple choice questions will be automatically graded by Litmos and Dr. Robinson will be grading free text answers. Assessments can be re-taken as many times as necessary.

### **Length of Access to Course**

Each student has 8 weeks from the time of registration to complete the program. If additional time is required, a fee may be imposed. There are no refunds once the student has been enrolled, even if the student does not complete the program.

### **Viewing Grades in Litmos**

Outcomes of graded activities will be available on Litmos as soon as the assessment is evaluated, whether automatically for multiple choice questions or by Dr. Robinson who grades assessments at least weekly.

## **Part 5: Optional Text**

Lindley S, Cummings M. *Essentials of Western Veterinary Acupuncture*. ISBN: 978-1-4051-2990-9, 208 pages. May 2006, Wiley-Blackwell.