



HOLISTIC TREATMENTS — NON-“CONVENTIONAL” VETERINARY TREATMENTS

The following information is not intended to substitute for your veterinarian's diagnosis, treatments, care, or advice. It is given as a compilation of information compiled from feline lymphoma caregivers. Nothing in this information is intended to recommend any of these treatments—that is up to you and your veterinary care professional. In addition, this section includes references to specific manufacturers and/or web sites for product definitions—these references in no way constitute an endorsement of the product. The list below is not intended to be all-inclusive of every holistic treatment available—the list contains treatments that have been used by some of our members. As with conventional treatments, some of the products and treatments below can be costly.

NOTE: Any therapy should be used carefully and in accordance with professional guidance. Holistic therapy, in particular, for feline lymphoma is inadequate when used alone. Martin Goldstein, D.V.M., noted veterinarian, says in his book, *The Nature of Animal Healing*, (p. 272, Random House, 1999, USA)

Of all the cancers I treat, among the least responsive to holistic therapy, even among young pets, are lymph cancers. They usually hit so quickly, often appearing over much of the body's lymph tissues, that chemotherapy is often necessary. In fact, this cancer is so responsive to chemotherapy, with relatively few lingering side effects, that it can be eradicated clinically overnight. I see it buying time, getting a patient into clinical remission, in order then to support him with IAT [Immuno-Augmentative Therapy—a method used specifically by Dr. Goldstein] and supplements. One tendency I've noticed again and again is the “potentiating,” or enhancing, effect of alternative therapy on conventional therapy. Chemo used to treat lymph cancer works far better, with fewer side effects, when alternative therapies are used, too, which enables a doctor to administer lower doses of it at less frequent intervals. (You can visit Dr. Goldstein's web site at: <http://www.smithridge.com/>)

INTRODUCTION

Holistic veterinary treatments generally include, but are not limited to, conventional treatments, nutritional therapy, homeopathy, flower essences, herbs, acupuncture, and supplements. This section will deal with some of the non-conventional treatments some caregivers have used in treating cats with lymphoma.

The Nature of Animal Healing, by Martin Goldstein, DVM, lists 4 categories of disease causes: (p 31) dietary, environmental, emotional/spiritual, genetic. The Holistic Veterinary Approach looks at all of these causes in seeking treatment for dis-ease.

The American Holistic Veterinary Medicine Association defines holistic veterinary medicine:

Holistic medicine, by its very nature, is humane to the core. The wholeness of its scope will set up a lifestyle for the animal that is most appropriate. The techniques used in holistic medicine are gentle, minimally invasive, and incorporate patient well-being and stress reduction. Holistic thinking is centered on love, empathy and respect.

This mixture of healing arts and skills is as natural as life itself. At the core of this issue lies the very essence of the word "(w)holistic". It means taking in the whole picture of the patient—the environment, the disease pattern, the relationship of pet with owner—and developing a treatment protocol using a wide range of therapies for healing the patient.

The holistic practitioner is interested in genetics, nutrition, family relationships, hygiene, and stress factors. Many patients present in a state of "dis-ease." At this point the holistic challenge lies in the question "why?" By a series of analytic observations and appropriate testing the goal becomes finding the true root source of the pathology. A simple-appearing symptom may have several layers of causation. Only when the true cause of the ailment has been found is there the possibility for a lasting recovery.

It is at this point that the most efficacious, least invasive, least expensive, and least harmful path to cure is selected.

In many acute situations, treatment may involve aspects of surgery and drug therapy from conventional western technology, along with alternative techniques to provide a complementary whole. This form of treatment has great value for severe trauma and certain infections. It often outperforms other methodologies. It is also at this time that other treatment plans such as those listed below are brought into use. Once the symptoms have been treated, the task is not complete until the underlying disease patterns have been redirected. The patient, as well as the client, will be guided to a new level of health. **[Used by permission, American Veterinary Medicine Association, <http://www.ahvma.org/main/brochure.html>]**

TREATMENTS (in alphabetical order)

Acupuncture

From the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society <http://www.ivas.org/main.cfm>

Veterinary acupuncture is a healing science which deals with the individual animal as a living energetic being, rather than simply as a catalogue of signs and symptoms. Effective veterinary acupuncture practice is based upon both the natural and scientific aspects of healing. The training of a veterinary acupuncturist includes both eastern and western medical methods in a synthesis medical insight.

Veterinary acupuncture is a technique for relieving pain and improving the function of various systems of an animal's body via stimulation of the proper reflex points. These points are mainly located in the superficial muscles and skin.

Some practitioners and veterinarians do not support the use of acupuncture for cancer therapy.

Adrenal (and other organ systems) Support

There are products available for support for your cat's organ systems during cancer and cancer treatment. The best known is by Standard Process. Specifically for adrenal support: Simplex M for males, Simplex F for females. There are other products also. You can order these through your veterinarian, or for Standard Process products at <http://www.myvits.com>

Ambrotose

Ambrotose is the brand name of an immune support product. Its proponents say that it can protect against the effects of toxins and the damage of free radicals. Some caregivers and veterinarians would caution against the use of an immune support product during chemotherapy, so consult your veterinarian before use.

Animal Essential Plant Enzymes and Probiotics

According to the manufacturer at its website <http://www.animalesentials.com/prodinfo.html>

All Natural Digestive Aid with Plant Enzymes and Probiotics. This product assists in the digestion and absorption of nutrients which are necessary to maintain good health. It relieves the extra burden placed on the digestive system, as this product breaks down fats, carbohydrates, cellulose and protein. Enzyme and probiotic supplementation is a good preventive measure to ensure good health.

Bach Rescue Remedy

In the early 1900s, Dr. Edward Bach developed some distinctive homeopathic remedies made from flower essences. The Bach Flower Essences are very popular today for human and animal use. People report that Bach Rescue Remedy has a calming effect--it is used by many people to calm their feline lymphoma kitties at home or on trips to the veterinarian. You can take it too!

Beta-Thym

Beta-Thym is the brand name of a product that contains beta-sitosterol, l-ornithine, and thymus gland substance. It has the properties of steroids and its proponents claim that it has anti-inflammatory properties without the side effects of traditional anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDS.

CAS Options

This is the brand name of a high potency feline immune and antioxidant support, which contains mushrooms, green tea powder, and other nutrients. Mushrooms have recently been found to inhibit the growth of cancer in humans. Some caregivers and veterinarians would caution against the use of an immune support product during chemotherapy, so consult your veterinarian before use.

Coenzyme Q10

Co-Q10 is a powerful antioxidant with properties similar to vitamin E. It is known to stimulate the immune system. Some caregivers and veterinarians would caution against the use of an immune support product during chemotherapy, so consult your veterinarian before use.

IP6

"IP6 is a phosphorylated form of Inositol commonly found in fiber-rich plant foods. IP6 is hydrolyzed by phytase enzymes in the digestive tract to yield inositol. IP6 supports natural cell defense against damaging hydroxyl free radicals by chelating with reactive iron." From <http://www.youngagain2000.com/ip6.html>

According to About.com, (<http://biology.about.com/library/weekly/aa040298.htm>) the University of Maryland studied IP6. "Scientists took human liver cells that were cancerous, treated them with various levels of IP6, and transplanted the treated cells into mice. IP6 was found to 'check' the growth of the cancerous cells--not by destroying the cancer cells but by making the cancerous cells act like normal, healthy cells. Inositol hexaphosphate decreases the proliferation of the cancer cells, keeping them in 'check.'"

Moducare

Blend of plant sterols and sterolins to enhance the immune system <http://www.moducare.com>, found in every health supplement store. One of our caregivers buys **#4 empty gelatine capsules** through the local pharmacy and puts Moducare in as a filler with any other med. This caregivers found recommended dosages: http://www.viim.org/refguide_files/Eyes.asp, 1/2 capsule sid, although some FIV+ feline owners give more.

Phyllanthus Complex

This is one of the products given to support organ function, specifically the liver. The following description is from <http://www.bayho.com>

- **Dandelion root** (*Leontodon taraxacum*) has been used world wide in the support of liver and gallbladder function. The body uses Dandelion root to increase the production of bile in the liver and in supporting its release from the gallbladder. **Dandelion** is believed to have originated in Central Asia where it was used as a liver - tonic.

- **Phyllanthus amarus** is an Indian herb that has been used for more than two thousand years by Ayurvedic practitioners in support of the liver.
- **Milk thistle seeds** (*Silybum marianum*) contain flavonoids that exhibit a hepatoprotective effect, as well as being involved in phase II liver detoxification by preventing the depletion of glutathione.

Poly-MVA

Poly-MVA is sometimes recommended by holistic veterinarians. It was recommended for one of our lymphoma kitties by Dr. Martin D. Newkirk, BS, MS, V.M.D., <http://www.alternativevet.com/home/index.html>

The manufacturer has the following information about Poly-MVA on its web site: <http://www.polymva.com/>

Poly-MVA is a uniquely formulated combination of minerals, vitamins and amino acids designed to support cellular energy production and promote overall health by replacing certain nutrients that may be depleted during certain therapies.*

A patented dietary supplement with over 40 years of laboratory research and testing and 15 years of clinical use, Poly-MVA is a revolutionary product and the first in a remarkable new category of supplements called palladium lipoic complexes (LAPd).

Poly-MVA has been shown to:

- Powerful antioxidant that protects against free radical damage*
- Fast acting, immediate absorption for quick results.*
- Provide nutritional support to those undergoing certain therapies*
- Promotes overall health for all ages and is very supportive by replenishing nutrients that may be depleted during chemotherapy and radiation*
- Support energy production at the cellular level and throughout the body*
- Enhance quality of life*

*** Not evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration**

Reiki

Reiki is a hands-on traditional healing energy modality. The practitioner transfers universal energy to the client. According to Reiki practitioners, the primary benefits of Reiki are calming, relaxing, and general enhancement of the life force energy.

Vitamin C

Recent studies have indicated that very large amounts of intravenous Vitamin C may reduce lymphomas (but can also promote diarrhea). In Science News, Oct. 15, 2005, Vol. 168, page 253, there is an abstract about the September 20, 2005 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Findings <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/102/38/13604>

When conventional treatments fail

One of our members had some good results with the following treatments, when chemo and radiation failed. We are not recommending this but providing it to you to let you evaluate:

- ***Vitamin C***
- ***Vitamin E***
- ***Vitamin A (use great care—get advice on what and how much to give your cat)***
- ***Pau D'Arco – from the bark of a South American tree, it is said to strengthen the immune system.***
- ***SC Formula (Shark Cartilage with Reishi Mushroom)—said to encapsulate tumors and limit their blood supply, thus, shrinking them.***
- ***Paw Paw—said to help cellular immunity***
- ***Red Clover—said to help purify the blood***
- ***VS-C—a Chinese herb***
- ***Green tea***