

Japanese Veterinary Acupuncture

On 7 and 8 July 2017, Rodrigo Fagundes came to the Healthcare-academy Den Hoek (the Netherlands) to delight us with the first module of three, on Japanese acupuncture. The two-day course started with a brief history how Japanese acupuncture evolved over time and how the main differences with Chinese acupuncture came into existence. The styles and characteristics of Japanese acupuncture were explained, for example that palpation -especially abdominal palpation- is the most important diagnostic tool, and that generally only few or no needles are used. Instead Moxa is being used frequently and Dr Rodrigo himself uses Moxa in 100% of his patients! It was a very pleasant and promising start of the day.

With his extensive knowledge of the Japanese language as well, Dr Rodrigo lightly explained a few complex concepts. Terms like the 'X-Signal System', the Jing Luo theory and more were explained, as well as shedding (a new) light on the circadian rhythm, Zheng Qi and the importance of the Triple Heater, all in the most simple and practical terms.

During these two days and as an illustration of the possibilities of Japanese acupuncture, Dr. Rodrigo delighted us with a series of anecdotes about the treatment of some of his patients, a whole variety of animal species, that most of us probably never even will come close to!

After a delightfully tasty lunch that Healthcare-Academy Den Hoek always provides, we were introduced to abdominal palpation. The meaning of warmer and colder areas on the abdomen, checking the resilience and the strength of the abdominal wall, were the main principles to start with. The whole physical exam was explained well and we had plenty of time in the afternoon to get our heads around these new principles. Very soon it became clear that this very quick and simple abdominal palpation could easily be integrated into a routine TCM exam, providing very useful additional information for the pattern diagnosis.

The second day, we received further practical information on moxibustion and were introduced to the Akabane test and the Modified Akabane Test for animals. After performing the Akabane test on ourselves first, getting familiar with the practical steps, we then went on to test our furry friends with the Modified Akabane Test. While the practical performance of this test takes more time than for example the abdominal palpation, it gives wonderful insight in the functioning of the meridians and could be a very important tool to establish what to treat first: meridians or Zang-Fu, especially useful for patients that seem unresponsive to prior treatment.

Fitting it all in with a few words on pattern differentiation and how the Five Element system can be used to identify the 'root' and the 'branch', and thus giving more pointers on what to treat first. To conclude these two very interesting days, a few of the participants were able to experience direct moxibustion themselves, and the difference between tonifying and dispersing techniques.

Before the end of the first day, most participants were already so impressed by the Japanese Acupuncture and its effective simplicity, that there seemed to be plenty of interest for the second and third module of this course. In the second module there will be more on the pattern differentiation and even more on therapeutic techniques like the different styles of needling and all different forms of moxibustion. Also YNSA, scalp and tail acupuncture, will be introduced. Of course there will be plenty of opportunity to practise these techniques during the two days and get familiar with them.

The third module will discuss how to set up a treatment protocol according to Japanese Acupuncture. Again, still more therapeutic techniques are introduced and demonstrated, like Ion Pumping, the Manaka Hammer and Shonishin, the non-invasive techniques, also very useful to teach the owner of an animal for them to perform at home. During these two days there will be plenty of opportunity to see the new techniques demonstrated as well as practice them yourself. A few clinical cases will give the opportunity to perform a full examination and set up a treatment protocol, which will also be discussed with all students.

Drs. Aleid Hillebrand DVM, CVA

NB Interested in learning about Veterinary Acupuncture with Dr. Rodrigo Fagundes?

In December, Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14th, the first module will be repeated. And subsequent the second module will be organised at Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December 2017, both at Healthcare-Academy Den Hoek, Bisschopsweg 2, 3732 HW De Bilt, The Netherlands. Registration is open for veterinarians with basic knowledge in TCM (acupuncture and/or herbs). For registration and more information, please visit: www.healthcare-academy.nl

