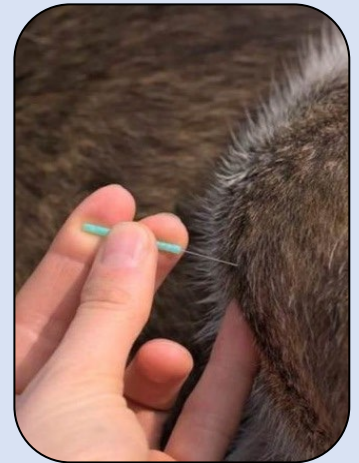


Methods of Pain Management

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory's (NSAID's) are used for the relief of generalized pain and inflammation. Varieties commonly used in practice include Metacam (liquid) and Onsior (tablets). These are normally given in short courses under the advice of a vet but can sometimes be recommended longer term. If a patient needs assistance for a prolonged period, regular monitoring will be recommended in the form of blood test, as these medications can negatively affect organ function. NSAID's are normally given after the body has suffered a form of injury or insult such as surgery, infections or traumas such as broken bones.

In some instances, a **surgical repair or intervention** is the only way to alleviate long term discomfort or risk to wellbeing. Veterinary surgeons carry out a very broad variety of surgical procedures. The decision to do this will be carefully discussed with the owner and many aspects will be taken into account before pursuing this route. Sometimes surgery has to be performed in an emergency to preserve life, such as in the event of a gastric obstruction/tortion (twisted gut), splenic rupture or closed pyometra, which is severe infection of the uterus (womb).

Acupuncture is a holistic method of treating areas of pain by inserting very fine needles into the body to stimulate nerves. This encourages the body to send messages to the brain which can alleviate pain without the need of medication. This happens because the body releases its own natural painkillers, blocking the discomfort the animal is feeling and reduces localised inflammation. This type of treatment is sometimes used to compliment medications or other treatments, providing care from multiple sources (referred to by vets as a multimodal approach). This can be especially helpful in animals who are elderly or not good candidates for surgery. Patient's usually find acupuncture very soothing and have been known to fall asleep during or shortly after treatment. It is a well known method of managing conditions such as arthritis, spinal pain/disk disease and muscle damage.



Librela comes in the form of a monthly injection; it is a monoclonal antibody therapy which stops the nerve growth factor, which leads to discomfort felt by dogs with osteoarthritis (OA) and nerve inflammation. It has a minimal impact on the organs so is often a preferred treatment for elderly or compromised patients. The reduced pain from OA leads to an increased enthusiasm for movement and improves the patient's quality of life. Some dogs have been seen to experience improvement after as little as 7 days. The feline equivalent of this medication is called **Solensia** and works similarly.

Information courtesy of <https://www.zoetisus.com/products/dogs/librela/>

K-Lazer Therapy utilises waves of light to both the superficial and deeper tissues layers to promote cell function. It helps to balance nerve activity, lessen discomfort, reduce inflammation and encourage normal, chemical cellular function (metabolism). K-lazer is non-invasive and causes a warming sensation in the area of treatment also used in human medicine. We often recommend K-lazer as a compliment with other therapies such as Librela injections with very good responses from our patients.

Information courtesy of <https://klaseruk.co.uk/pain-management>



For further details please contact us:

01580 763303

Info@herondenvets.co.uk

Heronden Veterinary Practice
Unit 3, PickHill Business Center
Small Hythe Road
Tenterden, Kent
TN30 7LZ