

SHORT CUTS

Acupuncturist gets paralysed pets back on their paws

Reuters



PRESSURE TACTICS

Looking like a furry brown pincushion, eight-month-old French bulldog Dan Jiao whimpers as he waits for the end of a Chinese acupuncture session aimed at curing his partial paralysis. Dan Jiao (translated as 'egg dumpling') would obviously rather be chewing on a bone somewhere than sitting strapped into a harness that resembles a medieval torture device, pricked by several long needles hooked up to a mild electric current. But Shanghai clinic of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioner Jin Rishan provides hopeful owners an alternative to putting down the beloved family dog or cat, the typical fate of pets immobilised by severe spinal and nervous-system injuries. The treatment appears to be working for Dan Jiao — completely paralysed when brought here, "he was slowly able to crawl on his front paws after three days of acupuncture. By the seventh day he was able to limp on all four legs", Jin said.

She brings calm to the animal farm

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Sanjuktha says that she doesn't take up many on-the-spot healing requests. She explains, "While some pets are friendly, many are not responsive to strangers. So, they end up taking time. This is one of the reasons why I prefer distance healing. But of course, I would need a picture of the pet and some background on the pet."

Is there anything that she takes into consideration before carrying out the therapy? "I meditate for a little while before I start the procedure. I shouldn't be worked up or have a bad day when I do reiki. So, I ensure I'm not tired and try to stay calm before the process," she says and adds that she prefers doing the process mostly in the noon or evenings.

Ask her how the animals respond to reiki, and she says, "Unlike humans, animals respond

Johan Sathyadas



Sanjuktha M.

to energies faster. I usually have three sessions with a client. And most of them respond well during the first session itself. With people, it is a little more complex and longer."

So, for what do clients approach her usually? "Most of the cases are animals that are going through a lot of pain, either on account of surgery or fracture. This, in turn, leads many pets into depression. Recently, I had a client whose cat was depressed because his companion cat had died," says Sanjuktha. Though reiki helps to a certain extent, Sanjuktha says that it is no replacement to veterinary care. She says, "The only thing I tell people who approach me is that this is no replacement for medicine. For instance, if the dog has some allergy, it is important for the owners to check with a doctor and find out the root cause of the allergy. I can, of course, pitch in with reducing the itching part of it. In the same manner, when dogs undergo chemotherapy (when they have cancer), they have to treat it medically. But since chemo has a lot of side effects, reiki can help reduce them," says Sanjuktha, who has also begun making gourmet pet food.

This apart, she has now started exploring animal communication as well. "A lot of people contact me for communicating with their lost animals. I am still in the process of learning this technique, though. Sometimes, you communicate with a lost cat and tell the owners where it is, but by the time the owners go there, it might have moved on to another place. While I have helped a few of my close clients, this talent takes a lot of time to acquire," she signs off.

