Acupuncture has become increasingly popular as a treatment for managing pain in cats and dogs.

**What is Acupuncture?**
It’s the practice of inserting fine, solid needles into the body for pain relief or, to help the body deal with other diseases. It works through the nervous system. The needles block pain messages and encourage the brain and central nervous system to produce more of the body’s natural painkillers.

**What conditions can be treated with acupuncture?**
Usually pain associated with arthritis, but also muscle strains, pain secondary to disc disease and bony changes of the spine.

**Will it hurt my pet?**
Absolutely not! Acupuncture needles stimulate nerves that send a message to the brain, blocking pain. Animals sometimes react to this sensation as though they are expecting pain, but then relax. Most of the time they accept the fine needles with no adverse reaction at all. In fact, they usually become extremely relaxed and a little bit sleepy during the treatment – often looking forward to their next acupuncture session!

**What about after the treatment?**
After an acupuncture session, pets often go home and have a long deep sleep. This is a good sign and shows that the pet is responding well to acupuncture.

**How often would my pet be treated?**
The usual course is once a week for four to six weeks.

For more information about Acupuncture, visit: vetspecialiststherapy.co.uk