

Veterinary Medical Acupuncture Points & Channels, 14-Part Series

Course Overview

This multi-part series on veterinary acupuncture points is designed for clinicians who seek to understand acupuncture from a clear, anatomically grounded, medically informed perspective rather than a metaphorical or metaphysical approach. Those who have some acupuncture background will benefit most profoundly. Why? Because this course explores, at a deep level, the anatomic connections and physiologic influences of several common points appearing in veterinary acupuncture treatments.

Each episode explores how point selection and stimulation can impact local tissues, initiate local and long-loop reflexes, promote the restoration of autonomic homeostasis, reduce discomfort, enhance mobility, and promote overall improvement in quality of life. Across the 14 videos, we will connect point anatomy with physiologic effects and hands-on localization strategies, helping bridge the gap between theory and treatment. Dr. Robinson also provides resources that compare medical reasoning and point selection rationales based on a Scientific Medical Acupuncture approach vs. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), advocating for the former over the latter.

Course Dates, Format, Length of Enrollment

Course Dates: Open and ongoing

Format: Self-paced online modules with open-notes, repeatable assessment(s) in each module.

Length of Access: One year from date of enrollment.

Continuing Education Hours

Total Series: 11 RACE-Approved Continuing Education Hours. RACE-approved programs are reviewed under the American Association of Veterinary State Boards Registry of Approved Continuing Education standards; veterinary professionals should verify that the course satisfies the CE requirements of their individual licensing jurisdiction.

Tuition:

\$58 USD per credit hour.

Prerequisites (Suggested)

- Licensed veterinarian or veterinary student
- Foundational understanding of veterinary anatomy, physiology, neurology, pain management, and general clinical examination skills.
- Commitment to practicing within the scope of veterinary licensure and applicable state, provincial, or national regulations.

- No prior acupuncture certification is required, although a background in acupuncture philosophy and science is strongly suggested.

Instructor

Instructor: Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, CRPM, FAAMA. Dr. Robinson is a physician, veterinarian, educator, and nationally recognized leader in scientific integrative medicine. Her professional background includes veterinary medicine, osteopathic medicine, pain management, neuroanatomy, acupuncture education, and evidence-informed approaches to physical medicine. She has developed and taught medical acupuncture curricula for decades to veterinary professionals, emphasizing anatomy, physiology, critical thinking, patient safety, and clinically relevant treatment planning. Dr. Robinson has also published two books, *Interactive Medical Acupuncture Anatomy* (Teton NewMedia, 2016) and *Canine Medical Massage, Techniques and Clinical Applications* (AAHA, 2015).

What We Deliver

- Structured online modules covering core concepts in medical acupuncture.
- Downloadable course notes, reference materials, and clinical handouts.
- Self-paced, repeatable quizzes to reinforce learning of key concepts.
- Certificate of completion documenting CE hours, subject to fulfillment of attendance and assessment requirements.

Learning Objectives for the Series

- Describe each major acupuncture channel or vessel using medically relevant anatomy rather than memorized surface locations alone.
- Explain how acupuncture point stimulation may influence local tissues, segmental spinal pathways, autonomic regulation, myofascial tone, pain modulation, and functional movement.
- Identify key muscles, nerves, vessels, fascial planes, joints, and bony landmarks associated with commonly used veterinary acupuncture points.
- Use palpation to recognize patient-specific point expression, including tissue texture change, tenderness, temperature variation, fascial restriction, guarding, and asymmetry.
- Apply point location principles safely and respectfully across species, body types, clinical conditions, and patient temperaments.
- Integrate point anatomy, physiologic rationale, palpatory findings, and clinical goals into thoughtful treatment planning.

Learning Objectives for Modules 1-14

Module	Topic	CE Hours
CA01	Lung Channel (LU): - Describe point locations on the Lung (LU) channel using anatomically relevant terminology. - List clinical applications for small animals of specifically identified points on the LU channel. - Identify notable muscles, nerves, fascia, and vessels associated with acupuncture points on the LU channel responsible for physiologic changes that occur with point activation. - Recognize how the transposition of point locations in humans translates to small animal anatomy. - Note precautions with needling for certain points on the LU channel. - Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the LU channel.	0.5
CA02	Large Intestine Channel (LI): - Locate "big" points on the Large Intestine (LI) channel in the dog or cat. - Describe whether any points along the LI channel have an impact on digestion and, specifically, the large intestine organ. - Note the autonomic impact of "big" points on the LI channel. - Develop point combinations for various conditions, including dental pain, with one or more LI points. - List safety aspects of needling certain LI points and how to avoid patient injury. - Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the LI channel.	0.5
CA03	Stomach Channel (ST): - Describe the neural features and physiologic effects of stimulation of Stomach channel points. - Locate "big" points on the ST line in the dog or cat. - Identify long-loop reflexes involving brain stem nuclei for points such as ST 36. - Develop acupuncture point protocols for stifle dysfunction involving points on the ST line. - Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the ST channel. - Describe the impact on digestion of various points along the ST line and discuss the mechanisms of action from point to end organ.	1.0

CA04	Spleen Channel (SP): • Locate points on the Spleen (SP) channel on the dog or cat. • Connect "big" points on the SP channel with the anatomic features that confer purported physiologic effects. • Define the pes anserinus in terms of its nerve supply and tendinous components as well as its relationship to SP 9. • Describe why SP 6 has been recommended for point protocols involving genitourinary conditions from a peripheral nerve and spinal segmental perspective. • List the innervation for "big" points on the SP channel. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the SP channel.	1.0
CA05	Heart Channel (HT): • Compare and contrast the point and channel trajectories of the Heart (HT) and Pericardium channels. • Locate "big" points along the HT channel in the dog or cat. • Describe how the innervation of points along the HT channel give rise to physiologic shifts secondary to point stimulation. • Note safe needling practice for HT 7 in terms of avoiding entering the joint space. • Consider the potential adverse consequences of inserting needles deeply into HT 1. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the HT channel.	0.5
CA06	Small Intestine Channel (SI): • Locate "big points" for the dog and cat on the Small Intestine (SI) channel. • Connect the clinical indications for SI points with their neural, vascular, and myofascial features. • Contrast the physiologic effects of point stimulation for SI points based on the nerves with which they relate. • Critique the naming of the SI channel in terms of the degree of anatomic or physiologic relationship to the small intestine organ. • Develop acupuncture treatment protocols involving one or more SI points for specific thoracic limb issues. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the SI channel.	0.5

CA07	Bladder Channel (BL): - Describe the trajectory and neural relationships of points along the BL channel. - List clinical indications and neurophysiologic rationales for each of the "big" points along the BL channel. - Know the organ relationships and associated Front Mu points for each of the BL points that also act as Back Shu points. - Identify where the BL channel has a double line representation on the back and how the numbering system is organized in that region - Develop point protocols that include one or more BL points and note the physiologic contributions of each point. - Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the BL channel.	2.5
CA08	Kidney Channel (KI): - Describe the trajectory of the Kidney (KI) channel in the dog or cat. - Denote the peripheral nerve supply of KI 1 and KI 3 and the relative clinical significance of each point's innervation characteristics. - List point combinations for clinical conditions that involve one or more KI points and what each KI point contributes to the point protocol. - Compare the patient receptivity to needling KI 1 in a human vs a dog and consider the reasons responsible for those differences. - Contrast the amount of tissue deep to KI 3 in the dog or cat to that present in the human and note how that may change the physiologic impact of needling KI 3. - Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the KI channel.	0.5
CA09	Pericardium Channel (PC): - Locate each of the "big" points on the Pericardium (PC) channel on the dog or cat. - Define the clinical indications for the "big" point on the PC channel. - Describe the mechanisms of action of PC 6 for cardiac conditions. - Compare and contrast the approaches to locating PC 6 on the human vs quadruped. - Compare the trajectories of the PC and Heart channels, noting similarities and differences. - Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the PC channel.	0.5

CA10	Triple Heater Channel (TH): • Define the term "Triple Heater" and what it refers to anatomically. • Critique whether the functions ascribed to the TH channel relate to its surface representation on the thoracic limb and head. • Identify neural relationships responsible for the clinical effects of TH points on the head, notably TH 17 and TH 23. • Describe point combinations for facial nerve injury that include one or more TH points. • Describe point combinations for keratoconjunctivitis sicca ("dry eye") that include one or more TH points. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the TH channel.	0.5
CA11	Gallbladder Channel (GB): • Describe the zigzag trajectory of the Gallbladder channel. • List clinical applications of GB points on the head, trunk, and pelvic limb. • Note how dense fascial structures often correspond to GB point locations. • Indicate which GB points serve as Front Mu points and describe the underlying structural basis for those relationships. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the GB channel.	1.0
CA12	Liver Channel (LR): • Denote the linear trajectory of the Liver channel. • Explain the neurophysiologic significance of the "big points" on the LR channel in the dog, along with the relevant neuroanatomy responsible for physiologic shifts. • Describe neural overlap between the Liver, Kidney, and Spleen acupuncture channels on the pelvic limb and abdomen. • List the points that comprise the "Four Gates" in acupuncture. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the LR channel.	0.5

CA13	Conception Vessel (CV) and Singular Vessels: • Describe the history of the eight "Singular Vessels" and the unique vascular anatomy associated with each system. • Recognize the anatomically relevant differences between what the "Curious", "Extraordinary", or "Extra" Meridians meant versus the material nature of the Singular Vessels as described by Kendall. • Note which two Singular Vessels, i.e., Governor Vessel (GV) and Conception Vessel (CV), have external representations on the surface of the body. • Describe the clinical applications of the "big" points on the CV channel in the dog. • List potential adverse effects of deep needling of points along the CV pathway. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the CV channel.	1.0
CA14	Governor Vessel (GV): • Describe medically relevant anatomy of the Governor Vessel (GV), both topographical and related to its nature as a singular vessel representative. • Explain how point stimulation along the GV channel influences local tissues, spinal segmental reflexes, autonomic regulation, pain processing, and mobility of the head, neck, and back. • Develop clinically effective point protocols based on anatomic and physiologic principles rather than simple metaphorical models. • Compare key differences between Scientific Medical Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in terms of philosophical framework, point effects when activated, and clinical applications for points on the GV channel.	0.5

Questions and Contact Information

For questions about registration, course access, CE documentation, or future courses in medical acupuncture, contact the course administrator at info@curacore.org.

For academic or clinical questions, students may submit questions through the online course portal or by contacting **Dr. Narda Robinson** at narda@curacore.org.