

Acupuncture and TCM for Rabbits: Working with the Fast and Flighty

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Rabbits are now the third most common companion pet in the United States. Just like other companion animals, evaluating Rabbits from the TCM standpoint should begin with the four original diagnostic methods developed in ancient times that continue to provide the basis of examination in today's era of modern medicine. These are inspection, listening, inquiring and pulse palpation. However, when working with these fragile and flighty creatures, special considerations can be taken during the evaluation process that will lead to a more comfortable experience for the patient and increase the practitioner's ability to gain useful information. The purpose of this lecture is to highlight the characteristics that make rabbits unique as a companion animal species and as veterinary patients, specifically in regard to incorporating TCM and acupuncture into their treatment plans.

In order to better relate to our rabbit patients, we will review the personality traits of each constitution as outlined by the Five Element theory of TCM. In this lecture, tips will be offered on how to work with each constitution more effectively by honoring their unique preferences and implementing some simple techniques.

To conclude, we will cover some of the most common Western problems seen in rabbit patients along with the underlying TCM patterns, Treatment Principles and acupuncture point prescriptions. Constitutional predisposition will be mentioned when it applies to certain patterns.

Objectives:

1. Learn to recognize personality traits of rabbits and classify their constitution based on the Five Element theory.
2. Apply specific techniques to improve the patient experience.
3. Discuss some of the most common Western diagnoses in rabbits along with the underlying TCM patterns, treatment principles and acupuncture point prescriptions.