



## **The Changing Face of Natural Health Care**

*"After All, Pets Are People Too"*

### **Our First Pet Patient**

We've been treating pets holistically at the Cherubino Health Center since 1983. Our first pet patient was a cat named Puffy. Her owner was one of our patients. As the owner's chronic lower back condition started to dramatically improve, she became a believer. One day she asked if we treated cats. My answer was, no. But, I was quick to add, not yet anyway.

I was beginning to use a type of energy-based treatment that used light touch, polarity and bioenergetics. Why wouldn't it work on a cat, or any animal for that matter? After all there was no force involved, no manipulation, no needles. I remember hearing other energy practitioners joke about the possibility of treating cats and dogs.

I suspect that I was one of the few practitioners in the early 1980s that was extending my services to cats and dogs. However, if I was a lone practitioner at the time, I am certainly not alone anymore.

### **Changing Times**

Practitioners across the country and around the world are now using alternative medicine modalities on dogs, cats and other household pets. In fact, veterinary medicine was one of the first medical disciplines to embrace limited forms of natural medicine as part of their routine treatment modalities. Currently, Chinese medicine, massage therapy, homeopathy, acupuncture, meridian therapy and various forms of energy medicine are proving to be very effective ways of caring for our pets.

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### **For Me, It All Started With My First Pet**

*A Message from Dr. Ron Cherubino* -- I have been called a sensitive and compassionate man. I don't normally share this with people, in fact I am positive that this is the first time I have ever

put it into print. Occasionally, I am asked why this is so and I tell a short story about my first pet, Mitzi.

At the age of 11, I began what turned into a relentless quest to convince my parents to let me have a dog. Any of you who have been through this, from either side of the spectrum, know how it goes. My parents were initially convinced that I was much too young and irresponsible to take care of a dog. I, on the other hand, was equally as convinced that I could easily live up to the task. And so the conflict went on until I finally prevailed.

## **The Puppy Mill**

Money was a legitimate concern and the fact that I had my heart set on a French poodle, preferably a small one, delayed the process. Every new litter that we heard about was just too expensive for our modest family budget.

Then, one day I found a newspaper ad for a French poodle puppy at nearly half the price of others we had seen. Mitzi was a toy/miniature poodle and the runt of the litter. To make matters worse she came from a very hyper, and noisy, Italian-American family. As I look back at the experience, I realize now that these people were not quality breeders but were running what today would be called a "puppy mill". She was a sad little thing that shook all over and jerked her head repeatedly when she was held. Nevertheless, I was in love and we brought her home that very evening.

## **Love Will Overcome**

I spent every possible minute of my life with that puppy. I even slept on a sofa in the basement when she was being paper-trained. I would sit with her for hours and hold her in my lap and gently pat her head. I will never forget the feeling of her tiny head pushing up against my hand as I was trying to calm her.

What she was suffering from, I now know was a neurological tic. It's a medical condition that people and other animals can get from a damaged or genetically weak nervous system. Poor breeding and an emotionally stressful environment are precursors to the condition. Maybe it's a good thing that I didn't know that this was a medical condition, because I might have believed that it was incurable. Instead, I can remember clearly and calmly making the decision that I was going to love my dog out of this situation. And I did.

## **Love Is Patient, Love Is Kind**

It took a considerable amount of time, several months, and a lot of loving effort. The truth was, I also lived in an Italian-American family that at times was quite noisy, hyper and stressful. I set aside times throughout the day for Mitzi and I to rest and unwind. During these times I would talk softly to her and stroke her gently as she, and I, inevitably fell asleep. I have never taken so many naps in my life, nor have I ever forgotten how love and compassion can overcome sickness and disease.

As I look back, this experience was a turning point and a major life lesson, instrumental in shaping me as a person, a doctor and a healer.

### **What Kinds of Conditions are Treated?**

Animals suffering from a variety of diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions and maladies have been successfully cared for at the Cherubino Health Center. Whatever applies to people also applies to pets.

We don't treat symptoms, diseases or conditions. We treat people, or in this case, pets. But, as I like to say, *pets are people too*.

And, as with people, where there is no diagnosed condition or other apparent symptom, we treat preventively.

### **What Kinds of Treatment are Available?**