
Reiki for your cat? Alternative medicine comes to pet care | Warr



By **Al Warr/Hunterdon County Democrat**

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A pet of some type lives in most American households. Dogs and cats are commonly found in homes across the land, but an amazing variety of other animals live with us as well.

Fish come in third place. These are followed by reptiles, small mammals, insects and other creatures.

Currently, Americans spend about \$60 billion annually on their pets, according to the American Pet Products Association. More than a third of that outlay is for food. The rest goes for supplies, veterinary services, grooming, boarding and miscellaneous.

A growing category of expenditures is in the area of natural treatments for pets. Your vet can set your dog's broken leg, but what about a puppy that whines all night, or a cat that suddenly begins peeing on the carpet?

Natural treatments employ holistic and homeopathic methods to get at the underlying reasons for problems. The goal is to re-balance the animal's natural responses, guiding our pets into a better relationship.



Ban declawing of cats? N.J. could be first

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Sue Ann Seccia-Harnden offers animal Reiki on a biomat, flower essences, and energy clearing sessions to help animals work through issues leading to stress and anxiety. She runs Fifth Dimension Healing Energy based in Clinton. Her telephone number is 908-730-0658.

Virangini Cindy Rounsaville is an educator and practitioner who works with people, pets and wildlife using homeopathic methods. She runs North Eastern Health Institute based in Frenchtown. She does many telephone consultations, and her number is 908-996-6761.

The two women have joined together to give educational talks and treatment appointments for people with pets that have problems. Animal Wellness Days are variously held at Well Bred Pet Marketplace, 19 Route 22, Clinton, or at Wellness Rocks, 28 Center St., Clinton, and at Epona Pet Care, 460 Route 614, Pattenburg.

Upcoming sessions are set for Thursday, Aug. 4, at Epona, 4-7 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on July 23 and Aug. 20 at Wellness Rocks. These sessions are by appointment only, and they are for dogs, cats and other pets.

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"A biomat is a healing tool," said Seccia-Harnden. "The amethyst crystal can be used with heat along with negative ion therapy or infrared therapy to do a whole body tuneup."

Energy based therapies are used to rebalance the immune system and to get the life force flowing smoothly if blocked, she explained.

Allergies, skin rashes, hot spots, even thunderstorms and fireworks can cause great anxiety and discomfort to pets. Emotional stress and behavior problems arising when new people or pets come into the home are common causes for concern.

Complementary alternative medicine, or CAM, has moved into the mainstream practices of the medical community. Applying holistic and homeopathic therapies to treatments of our pets is a natural extension of the movement.

Acupuncture for dogs goes mainstream in N.J.

"Every flower has a healing message in it," she continued. She does consultations and formulations of custom flower and plant essences for both family and pets.

"There is a connection between healing and the physical body. I use Spiritual Response Therapy and Emotional Freedom Technique, or SRT-EFT, These are long-standing techniques that have been around for decades, used to clear blockages," she explained.

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"I've been working with people since the 1980s," said Virangini Cindi. "I'm a homeopathic educator, and I get lots of calls from people whose puppies are chewing up socks or have skin problems."

She consults over the phone and points clients to remedies that they can go out and purchase at the local health food store.

"Some problems can come from teething," she said. "Or the pet might suffer from abandonment. It's a matter of matching symptoms to the remedy."

The idea behind homeopathy is to stimulate "the immune system just enough for the immune system to do its healing. Homeopathy is a natural way to address your pet's everyday needs, anxiety, diarrhea, vomiting, skin conditions," and other problems.

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Christina Russoniello runs Epona Pet Care, LLC. This is a big place - 17 acres with fenced areas for dogs to run and play.

Basically, this is a boarding place for dogs with some training for them.

"Training here uses only non-violent methods," said Russoniello. "And all dogs get lots of individual attention."

There is a playroom with three bedrooms. The dogs are walked and they play with humans.

Boarding here is short-term, usually a weekend or maybe a week.

For more information, call 908-892-4518 or visit **EponaPetCare.com**.

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For more information on Sue Ann Seccia-Harnden's holistic treatments for pets, call 908-730-0658 or visit **FifthDimensionHealingEnergy.net**. She is located at Wellness Rocks, 28 Center St., Clinton.

