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Mushtaq A Memon

Washington State University, USA

Integrative medicine: An upcoming trend in veterinary medicine

With the increasing interest in integrative therapies in human, animal owners are seeking similar therapies for their pets. Many private veterinary practices and some veterinary teaching hospitals are offering Integrative Veterinary Medicine (IVM) modalities as an adjunct to the Western therapies. The results of a recently published retrospective analysis of 5,195 integrative patient treatment sessions suggest that acupuncture, laser therapy and hydrotherapy were utilized in more than 50% of the patients. To make IVM as an integral part of veterinary practice, efforts need to be made during veterinary education of the future veterinarians. Appropriate IVM curriculum would include basic concepts of IVM, acupuncture, manual therapies, botanical medicine, integrative nutrition and physical rehabilitation. Joint efforts between IVM-related organizations are needed to assist veterinary students in learning IVM, helping veterinary faculty to become certified in IVM modalities and to increase public awareness of the IVM benefits.

Biography

Mushtaq A Memon has completed his PhD in Theriogenology from University of Minnesota and Residency training at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is a Diplomate, American College of Theriogenologists and participates in teaching and providing clinical service as a part of the Comparative Theriogenology section at Washington State University (WSU). He has received certification in Veterinary Acupuncture from Chi Institute, FL in 2008. At WSU, he coordinates Complimentary & Alternative Veterinary Medicine course. He is the author or co-author of more than 170 publications in scientific journals, conference proceedings and book chapters. He has given more than 120 presentations at international, national, state/local meetings. Internationally, he has given presentations in more than 20 countries. Before joining WSU, he taught at veterinary colleges of Oklahoma State, Louisiana State and Tufts University in MA.

memon@vetmed.wsu.edu