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Gracie Update

Tue, 2010-05-25 18:44 — Robin Olson

Understanding what results to expect when utilizing Homeopathy, is definitely something I'm learning. It's different from seeing Dr. Larry. With him, I would expect him to prescribe a shot or pill, etc., then within a specific amount of time, I'd expect results. I'd also end up effecting Gracie in ways none of us would intend. For instance, if I'd caved in and told Dr. Larry to give her steroids, she's be looking very nice right now, but internally, I would have done damage to her that might not manifest right away. They call steroids ^[1] "the silver bullet" for a good reason. They work great for lots of reasons, but there's a price to pay, which includes potentially causing a whole slew of immune related problems and worse, which end up shortening the life span of the cat. For a geriatric cat in poor health, steroids can give them comfort and help them find their appetite during their final days. In a young cat, I would avoid it if at all possible. Each situation is different and you need to discuss using steroids on your cat with your Vet.

I just got back from visiting Dr. Hermans. We had a good conversation, then she examined Gracie. Firstly, Gracie's nasty self-mutilation IS HEALING NICELY! I was only able to apply some calendula based first aid cream to her twice, along with some bitter apple around the site of the injury. Since she was healing with little help from me, that's actually a good sign that she's STOPPED chewing on herself.



We also discussed diet. Gracie may not be tolerating the food I changed the cats over to. They all go crazy eating it, but Gracie wants it too and she can't have it so she won't eat or she'll wait and try to get some scraps off another plate. This doesn't work since there usually are NO scraps left. Now I've been given the OK to open up the choices of food I give her, which should help inspire her to eat more consistently. Juggling what to feed 8 cats is a pain in the ass. Dr. H said there is "no such thing as feeding all cats in a multi-cat household, the same food." It's a "Holy Grail" that can't be reached if your cats are of such varying ages and from different backgrounds. Gee, I didn't have enough to feel bad about! Ugh.

So back to the food drawing board. Hopefully, I will get this figured out. The math involved in all of this "how many ozs of food/how many lbs of cat" is driving me nuts. We have a bit over 100 lbs of cat, but each one gets a different amount of food. I can't feed them all the same amount because it's too costly and I don't want the cats to get fat.

We spoke, again, about re-homing Gracie. Dr. Larry feels it's time for me to do that and Dr. H says, "No. Not right now." The problem here is my expectations, more than anything else. I'm used to a quick fix. Homeopathy doesn't work quickly- especially for something like dermatitis. It's going to be up and down over a long period of time. There are no guarantees, either. This may not work, but we haven't given it long enough and Dr. H does see signs that Gracie IS responding to treatment. If she was in bad shape, she'd have kept on chewing her leg. She may have had a flare up. Hard to say. I can't imagine finding a home for her with no other cats or dogs, where the new owner would not give her steroids for her skin or who would feed raw and follow her health needs. It's just not going to happen. Crossing fingers: I will get her back in good shape one day and prove Dr. Larry wrong. Gracie can stay here and be happy AND healthy!



Bottom line is that I need to give Gracie more alone time-which I've been doing the past few nights and we're going to adjust the treatment she's getting and give that to her more often and see how she does. She won't be getting acupuncture just yet. Apparently it does not go well with Homeopathy! We can only do one thing at a time. Who knew?

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Comments

Tue, 2010-05-25 21:13 — [Ingrid King \(not verified\)](#) ^[13]

Celebrate even small progress! ^[14]

I think the fact that Gracie is already looking better and apparently stopped chewing is so encouraging! I know homeopathy can be challenging because it's not a quick fix, but at the same time, it can be so powerful and worth hanging in for the end result. I know it must feel overwhelming, but don't forget to be conscious of even small successes, and while positive thinking isn't everything, it helps to keep the desired end result in mind when you're on a marathon (not to mention emotional rollercoaster!) like this.

I had not heard that about acupuncture and homeopathy not necessarily working together, that's very interesting. I'd love to hear more about the reasons for it.

Gracie is so beautiful!

Tue, 2010-05-25 23:17 — [Robin Olson](#) ^[15]

Thank you, Ingrid! ^[16]

Yes, apparently homeopathy and acupuncture work with the body's energy and can cause problems if you do them together. It's okay to do traditional and homeopathy or traditional with acupuncture. I can ask Dr. Hermans more about why if you wish. :-)

I agree, I need to slow my expectations down and I need to be happy that Gracie stopped mutilating herself which IS a big deal.

Wed, 2010-05-26 22:57 — [acninee](#) ^[17]

Gorgeous girl, I love seeing ^[18]

Gorgeous girl, I love seeing your photos of her. Glad she's improving.

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