

AVAC Basic Acupuncture Certification Course 2017-2018
Teaching Assistants



Dr. Jim Berry graduated from the University of Guelph with a MSc in Zoology, followed by a DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1990. Initially working in a mixed animal practice in southern Ontario, he moved to the Ottawa valley working with companion animals, followed by a move to New Brunswick in 1996.

In the past 15 years, Jim has concentrated his practice on companion animal lameness and pain control employing an integrated approach to patient care. He is certified in veterinary acupuncture, canine rehabilitation and animal chiropractic. He is currently a candidate for the Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner designation.

Jim has been actively involved in veterinary associations including the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association (NBVMA) bylaws and animal welfare committees, and the animal welfare committee of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). He is a past- president of the CVMA and NBVMA and is the current president-elect of the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management.



Dr. Michelle Kinoshita graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1990. She worked in Toronto at several small animal veterinary hospitals from 1990 to 2007, including a cat specialty practice and her own mobile practice. In 2004/05, Michelle took the AVAC basic acupuncture course, receiving her IVAS certification in 2006. In the summer of 2007, Michelle moved, with her family, to Collingwood, Ontario. She practiced conventional medicine/surgery, part time, and, at a different clinic, holistic/integrative medicine, part time. Michelle received her certification in veterinary Chinese herbal medicine (IVAS/CIVT) in 2012. She worked as a laboratory

instructor for the AVAC basic acupuncture course in 2011/12. In 2014, the holistic/integrative practice became full time. In her spare time, Michelle, and her family, can be found enjoying an active outdoor lifestyle in Ontario's outdoor playground.



Dr. Allyson MacDonald graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1988. After a 25 year practice of mixed rural practice specializing in Small Ruminants she became IVAS certified in Veterinary Acupuncture in 2007. Acupuncture was amalgamated into her western practice for several years but in 2010 she opened MacDonald Mobile Veterinary Service offering acupuncture, herbal and laser medicine to horses, dogs and cats. In 2011 Allyson completed CIVT certification in advanced Chinese Herbal Medicine.

"I believe in learning from lots of teachers and have also taken advanced herbal and acupuncture courses with the Chi Institute in Florida. I was a teaching assistant at the 2011/12 IVAS course in Toronto and loved passing on my experiences so I am pleased to be back this year not only as a teaching assistant but as a lecturer.

Originally from the east coast I still enjoy spending as much time as possible at my home on Prince Edward Island. I am happiest outdoors; either working in the garden or on a river paddling. If I am relaxing indoors I usually have a glass of excellent red wine in my hand. I would encourage you to come out and see how acupuncture can expand your practice and your ability to help your patients."



Dr. Morag McMurray completed the Animal Chiropractic course offered by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) and was certified in 1996.

"Taking that course was like converting the 'black box' that was the spine into a whole new world of possibilities. It made me look at, and assess animals in whole new way. Animal chiropractic improved my skills as a western medicine doctor also. I have really enjoyed and valued this addition to my practice. At the animal chiropractic course I met people who had studied animal acupuncture and herbs. I was hooked!" Morag was certified in Animal Acupuncture by IVAS, the

International Veterinary Acupuncture Society in 2001, and as a Veterinary Herbalist by the Chi Institute in 2006. She worked as a teaching assistant at the 2011/12 IVAS course in Toronto.

Morag's small animal practice now, is a balance of western medicine and alternative therapies. "I really enjoy using all these different modalities, as they are appropriate, to help my animal patients. Helping owners improve their animal's health and quality of life is a real joy. I work at the Kingston Mills Veterinary Hospital on Monday, Thursday, Friday and every other Saturday."



Dr. Alix Serapiglia is an ambulatory equine practitioner from Bromont, Qc. She practices general and holistic medicine through acupuncture, aiming to use an integrative approach on most of her cases. Alix also practice small animal acupuncture exclusively, in collaboration with 2 small animal clinics in her area, another example of integrative medicine. "Acupuncture is a wonderful tool in all aspects of my practice, from elderly 4 legged companions to performing sport horses."



Dr. Cara Warkentine graduated from the Chi Institute with a mixed animal acupuncture certification in Spring 2015. She is currently practicing at a small animal practice in Winkler, Manitoba, practicing acupuncture in conjunction with conventional medicine. Cara spends her free time riding horse with family and practice acupuncture on friend's and family's horses.