

Dr. Savko discusses therapy options for animals with chronic diseases

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As a Certified Veterinary Chiropractor, Dr. Michael Savko's goal is to avoid or reduce surgical procedures and drugs altogether. At the Suburban Animal Clinic in Butler, he makes animals more comfortable through a variety of techniques, including muscle work and acupressure. "Chronic ailments like diabetes and cancer are difficult to get a handle on because there's a disease process attacking the body," he explained, noting that the objective is to manage an incurable disease in a way that makes the animal more comfortable. In some instances, he is even able to restore function.



"In some cases, we can either resolve the problem or make the animal as good as it can possibly be," he said, recalling a recent terminal patient. "A cat had one of the worst cases of skin cancer I've ever treated and was going through chemo. I was able to make that animal more comfortable and social. This allowed the owner to have more peace with the situation. The cat died after nine months, but it passed away gently.

"My treatment finds areas of the nervous system not working right and makes them work better," he added, noting that the nervous system is responsible for pain and function. "If you have cancer, stimulating the nervous system to heal helps the body to fight back."

As an adjunctive therapy, Dr. Savko said that he makes it possible for pets to live with terminal conditions as well as they possibly can. "You can give them a better quality of life, and having extra time to process the loss of a pet makes it a lot easier for the owner, too."



Organic conditions, such as ear and eye infections, can also be treated successfully, said Dr. Savko, noting that conventional treatments may have side effects that can cause more stress to a sick animal's system. "The disease process will affect animals by stressing their bodies and minds," he explained, adding that chiropractic treatments can help medications work better. "If I remove blockages, it should make the medical treatment used to manage the disease more effective. I allow the body to function at its highest capacity."

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