

## LETTER

### Alternative therapies

Sir,

I am a veterinary surgeon in small animal practice and use a variety of therapies for my patients – ranging from surgery and conventional drug therapy, through acupuncture and homeopathy, to less well-known remedies such as Bach Flower and Electro Crystal therapy.

In my experience I achieve great success with ‘non-conventional’ techniques, and usually without the risk of the side effects which can sometimes occur with conventional drug usage. There are other advantages: ‘natural’ medicines are cheaper and no animals have been used in research to produce them.

It is my contention that animal welfare would be greatly enhanced in many respects if, alongside the conventional veterinary training, a significant amount of time was spent on studying alternative/complementary therapies. Similarly, bodies such as the university veterinary schools, the British Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons should promote the rational use of such therapies within the veterinary profession, and should publicize their availability to the animal owning public.

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