

# Holistic Health Care

*“First of all, we need an approach to illness that goes beyond naming the illness and suppressing the symptoms with drugs or other approaches that fail to identify the cause. Secondly, the cause is not always simple, but can result from a complex interaction of different kinds of imbalances within an individual. The notion of balance includes getting the right amount of substances to satisfy our individual needs and avoiding exposure to substances that are toxic or allergenic.”*

Sidney MacDonald Baker, M.D. Detoxification and Healing, Keats Publishing

(W)holistic patient care is derived from a mind-set that attempts to see the entire animal as an interrelated whole and to treat the entire animal using whatever methods are best suited to a particular case. For example, a skin disease may be a manifestation of a systemic imbalance or an apparently unrelated abnormality. A conventional approach would be treatment of the skin disease with a corresponding pharmaceutical. A holistic approach would attempt to uncover and address the underlying causes of the skin disease in addition to treating the surface manifestation appropriately.

Holistic patient care is not limited to ‘natural’ modalities such as acupuncture, chiropractic, nutrition, herbs, or homeopathy. Truly holistic care uses an integrated approach in which all appropriate and available tools are utilized for optimizing patient care. These tools may include ‘natural’ methods, but also may include pharmaceuticals or surgery if indicated. The veterinarians at the Veterinary Wellness Center believe that this integrated approach, which attempts to provide the best aspects of both traditional medicine and surgery, with the most useful natural tools, is the ideal form of effective care.