At Plano Animal Clinic (PAC), we use both conventional and alternative therapies. When alternative therapy is recommended for our patients, it is because Dr. Ward believes it to have a significant benefit over the conventional therapy for a particular disease condition. For instance, in the case of viral disease, there is no conventional therapy other than supportive care. The alternative therapy might be more effective, safer, less expensive, less traumatic, less invasive, or all of the above. On the other hand, when conventional therapy is safe, effective, and reasonably priced, we do not hesitate to recommend it for our patients. Dr. Ward endeavors to use what works to heal the patient. A number of the alternative therapies used at PAC were designed all or in part by Dr. Ward and are so noted.

PAC makes no claim that our methods are superior to those used by other veterinary clinics and hospitals, but only that they have worked well for us. As we use both conventional and alternative methods of treatment, PAC would not be classified as “holistic,” though many of our therapies are designed to treat the whole patient. We use an immune enhancing approach to heal the patient from the inside out, as opposed to relying solely on pharmaceuticals for symptomatic relief. However, as with any form of medical therapy, conventional or alternative, there is no stated or implied guarantee of success.

Healing from Within
It has been my experience that improving a patient's immune system frequently enables that patient to recover from physical diseases. Variables that can affect treatment outcome are duration of illness, patient's age and genetic make-up, nature of the illness, etc. While specific drug therapy may also be necessary, treatment methods that help the patient's own immune system recognize and respond to the illness seem to be the most effective.

The treatment methods that have been the most beneficial for our patients over the past few years include:

1. Immune modulation
2. VOM spinal adjustments
3. Cold LASER therapy
4. LED acupuncture

Each method promotes healing from within, though they do it in different ways.

Immune modulating therapy, when successful, signals the immune system to "kick in" and respond to the specific disease process affecting the patient. We endeavor to accomplish this at PAC by using a variety of agents and protocols from complexed antioxidant, amino acid, and fatty acid formulations to patient specific immunotherapy and homeopathics.

VOM (Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation) is a non-painful, harmless, instrument-based technique of adjusting the spine. VOM effectively puts the body back into communication with itself, while reducing pain and muscle spasms that hold the injury in place. Combining VOM with Erchonia cold laser therapy, and LED light-point acupuncture into a treatment modality unique to PAC (PAC Back and Spine Protocol™) has produced results that amaze even us. We have helped many acutely paralyzed and partially paralyzed dogs walk, run, and play again using these non-invasive, painless techniques. We have also helped many cats with moderate to severe back pain (feline hyperesthesia) fully recover.

Dr. Wards' Back and Spine Protocol™ also increases blood flow and improves nerve conduction to all parts of the body. Consequently, this form of therapy can also benefit such diverse conditions as liver or kidney disease, megaesophagus (ballooning esophagus) in dogs, and megacolon (ballooning colon) in cats. The last two have responded very will to our combination of VOM, cold LASER, and LED acupuncture, which gives us insight into the real cause behind these maladies.
The Erchonia red and violet cold lasers, utilized in our back and spine protocol, have many other uses as well. They have thousands of available frequencies allowing them to be programmed for specific tissues and disease conditions. These focused, pure-red and pure-violet light energies increase the chemical energy production of each individual cell, enhancing each one’s ability to repair and maintain itself, which in turn promotes a healing response in the tissues, organs, and ultimately in the whole body.

Our greatest gains in patient care in thirty years of practice have come in the last several years by using the above mentioned techniques and methods. These methods benefit the entire patient - cells, tissues, muscles, organs, joints, spine, and nerves. Most patients benefit markedly when these areas are improved.

Note: The preceding article represents Dr. Ward's personal opinion based on his research of the medical literature and his clinical experience. As with any conventional or alternative medical therapy, there is no stated or implied guarantee of success with any of our treatment protocols. We do not advocate these methods as a cure or treatment for cancer. By law, we are prohibited from consulting with the owners of pets we have not personally examined. Your understanding in this matter is appreciated.

Brief Descriptions of PAC Alternative Therapies

Allergies

- The Plano Animal Clinic (PAC) allergy protocol was developed at PAC by Dr. Alan Ward (winter/spring 2011) and has shown great promise in treating allergic skin disorders.
- Allergy symptoms include itching, scratching, face rubbing, foot licking, etc.
- Conventional therapy frequently relies on steroids (cortisone) to suppress the symptoms. While often initially successful, the effectiveness of steroids decreases over time and may produce undesirable side effects. These side effects may include frequent urination, increased water consumption, increased appetite, and increased risk of infection.
- The PAC allergy protocol uses the patient’s own DNA to produce a patient-specific therapy that modulates, rather than suppresses, the immune system. When successful, the patient’s itchiness and accompanying symptoms are significantly reduced. Additionally, the patients tend to be less reactive to allergens and more resistant to infections.
- Approximately 80% of patients treated with the PAC allergy protocol have responded favorably, though individual patient response may vary.
Note: Many pets with allergies also have secondary infections that require treatment. As with any allergy control method, treatment with the PAC protocol is ongoing. Allergies are managed rather than cured. Other sources of itchiness include flea infestations and food sensitivities, and these must also be addressed.

Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C) High Dose Infusion

- Technique involves giving very high doses of vitamin C intravenously through an indwelling catheter over a 24 - 72 hour period.
- Requires hospitalization.
- Very effective as an aid in treating acute poisoning, life-threatening sepsis and acute viral infections.
- Acts as a broad spectrum antitoxin, antibacterial and antiviral.

“Vitamin C is arguably the most important therapy that most infected patients should receive, regardless of the diagnosis and whether other therapies and medications have already been started.”

Thomas Levy, M.D., JD
Vitamin C, Infectious Diseases, and Toxins
2002

“Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) is the safest and most valuable substance available to the physician.”

Frederick Klenner, M.D.
1974
- At PAC, our first step in treating most acutely ill patients is the installation of an I.V. catheter and the initiation of a high dose vitamin C infusion along with intravenous fluids.

- Patient response is often dramatic though individual response may vary.
- In our hands, this technique has been life-saving for many acutely ill patients.

Antiviral Therapy

- The PAC antiviral protocol, developed by Dr. Alan Ward, utilizes immunemodulating techniques to treat a variety of viral diseases.

Dogs
Distemper
Parvovirus
Kennel Cough
Influenza - like illness
Hepatitis  

Cats
Rhinotracheitis
Calicivirus
Panleukopenia
FELV/FIV
FIP (dry)
Distemper

- Ultra low-dose interferon plays an integral role in the PAC treatment protocol. A study by Weiss, Cummins, and Richards regarding the use of low dose interferon to treat feline leukemia virus (JAVMA, November 15, 1991) provided the foundation for the antiviral protocol used at PAC.
- Our overall success rate for treating viral disease has been very good, though individual response may vary.
“Painless” Vaccinations

- Origin of technique unknown
- Significantly reduces tissue reaction and soreness following vaccination
- Uses cold laser (LED) at vaccination site following injection
- No additional cost to owner
- Results: Puppies, kittens, dogs, and cats rarely experience body aches and pain following vaccinations when cold laser is used. Very positive owner feedback. Happier pets.
- NOTE: Does not prevent anaphylactic reactions from occurring, though these are rare.

“Painless” Injections

- See “painless” vaccinations
- Origin of technique unknown
- Results: Significant pain reduction after deep injections, etc. Positive owner feedback. Happier pets.
- No additional cost to owner
Back & Spine Protocol

- Protocol developed by Dr. Alan Ward with component parts developed by Dr. Ward, Dr. Bill Inman, Dr. Jim Simpson, and Dr. Roger Dehan.
- Includes VOM spinal adjustment, cold LASER spinal therapy, LEDacupuncture, and a proprietary combination of nutraceuticals to assist in spinal cord repair.
- Treats a wide variety of musculoskeletal injuries and related conditions.

Examples:

- Slipped disks
- Painful backs
- Sore necks
- Joint pain
- Arthritis  ACL Injuries (knee ligaments)
- Hip Dysplasia
- Megaesophagus
- Megacolon
- Many Others

- Whole body therapy
- Painless, safe, non-invasive
- Great for older pets with chronic aches and pains
- Significantly less expensive than surgery
- Safe as adjunctive therapy for heart patients, kidney patients, etc.
- Good for young and old alike
- NOTE: Surgical intervention by qualified veterinary surgeon is standard of care for acute paralysis and other serious musculoskeletal injuries. VOM spinal adjustment / cold laser acupuncture is alternative if surgery not possible for owner due to age of patient, expense of surgery, availability, etc.
- Overall success rate high, though individual patient outcome may vary
LASER Therapy (L.T.)

- Protocols developed largely by Dr. Bill Inman
- L.T. uses an outside energy source to enhance the body's ability to heal itself
- L.T. reduces pain and inflammation and accelerates healing
- L.T. helps the body repair injured cells, tissues, organs, joints and nerves

Heartworm Disease

- Protocol developed all or in part by Dr. Alan Ward
- Painless, low risk, low cost alternative to conventional heartworm treatment
- Approximately 1/3 the cost of conventional therapy
- No arsenic derivatives or toxic drugs used
- No painful back injections. In fact, no injections at all.
- Heartworms die gradually, minimizing cardiovascular stress on patient
- NOTE: Dogs will test negative on direct test shortly after beginning therapy. The antigen test will take longer to test negative than will conventional therapy because the adult heartworms die more gradually. However, the more gradual death of the heartworm adds to the safety of the PAC alternative heartworm protocol.
- Overall success rate very high, though individual patient outcome may vary

Glaucoma

- Protocol developed all or in part by Dr. Alan Ward
- Nutrient based approach that lowers eye pressure naturally
- Success of therapy determined by subsequent eye pressure measurement using Tonovet digital tonometer and patient response (reduced pain and lowered pressure)
- NOTE: Standard of care for patients with visibly swollen eyes or markedly elevated pressures are examination and treatment by veterinary ophthalmologist, often with surgery to follow. Untreated glaucoma causes pain and blindness. Treating glaucoma can reduce or eliminate the pain and reduce the rate of blindness. PAC alternative therapy may be considered when exam and surgical intervention by veterinary ophthalmologist not possible due to availability, expense, lack of access, etc.
- Overall success rate good, though individual patient outcome may vary

High Triglycerides / Cholesterol (Hyperlipemia, Hyperlipidemia)

- Protocol developed all or in part by Dr. Alan Ward
- High blood fats (triglycerides / cholesterol) most common in Miniature Schnauzers, though any breed may be affected
- Symptoms may include seizures, pancreatitis, abdominal pain, lethargy, vomiting, etc.
- PAC alternative therapy uses certain nutrients, nutraceuticals, and diet modification. Has been consistently effective in lowering blood fats into normal or near normal range.
- Symptoms generally significantly reduced or eliminated
- Overall success rate high, though individual patient outcome may vary

Feline Mouth and Gum Disease (Stomatitis, Periodontitis, Gingivitis)

- Protocol developed all or in part by Dr. Alan Ward
- Moderate to severe pain caused from inflammation of the gum and inside surface of mouth and throat
- Common symptoms: bad breath, salivation, difficulty chewing, or declining health.
- PAC protocol: low risk, relatively easy to administer, and generally low cost, though may vary with patient
- Significant improvements in most cases. Activity and attitude often noticeably improved
and bad breath diminished.
  - Overall success rate high, though individual patient outcome may vary

Feline Bladder Disease (Interstitial Cystitis, FUS, FLUTD, etc.)

  - Protocol developed all or in part by Dr. Alan Ward
  - Painful condition of bladder afflicting many cats with discomfort, urinary urgency, and inappropriate urination
    - Frustrating condition affecting many cat owners, resulting in soiled carpets and furniture, smelly house, and expensive replacements
    - Problem attacked from different angles simultaneously with PAC alternative therapy
  - Safe for patient
  - Relatively easy to administer
  - Moderate expense (cheap, though, compared to replacing carpets, rugs, furniture, wood floors, etc.)

  - NOTE: Feline bladder disease is a complex problem with no simple solutions. Not every case is resolvable.
    - Overall success rate good, though individual patient outcome may vary

Feline Sinusitis (Chronic Sinus Infection)

  - Protocol developed all or in part by Dr. Alan Ward
  - Treatment similar to that of feline mouth and gum disease (stomatitis, gingivitis, periodontitis)
    - Generally effective, low risk, relatively low cost
    - Overall success rate good, though individual patient outcome may vary
Feline Inflammatory Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

- PAC alternative therapy and conventional therapy
- Anti-inflammatories, antioxidants, enzymes, etc. used initially. Attempt made to wean off anti-inflammatories.
- Condition manageable
- Moderate success in weaning off pharmaceuticals
- Overall success rate good, though individual patient outcome may vary

Feline Asthma

- PAC alternative therapy and conventional therapy
- Treatment similar to that used for other inflammatory conditions
- Condition manageable
- Overall success rate good, though individual patient outcome may vary

Cancer

PAC (Plano Animal Clinic) has tried a number of alternative methods of treating cancer over the years, most of which were ineffective. This should come as no surprise as no treatment can offer a cure save complete surgical removal. Lately though, we've had two cancer patients
suffering with lymphoma and hepatocellular carcinoma respectively, do significantly better than anticipated. While it is certainly possible that these two cases were flukes, nevertheless they have given us a glimmer of hope. Perhaps we will be able to take the methods used on these two patients and develop them into a working protocol that could help other veterinary patients struggling with cancer.

It should be noted that cancer is an extremely formidable opponent and aggressively fights back against any attempt to vanquish it. Therefore any attempt to lay seige to a cancer may have the unintended, though not uncommon consequence of harming or even hastening the demise of the patient. These are the risks taken when treating any cancer patient. but the alternative is to do nothing which brings to mind the old saying: "nothing ventured, nothing gained."