

Moxibustion

Moxibustion is a natural healing technique used in traditional Chinese and Tibetan medicine. This method is also used in Japan by practitioners specialising in natural healing.

Indirect moxibustion is being practised on animal companions at Petopia. It involves burning dried leaves (mugwort - *Artemesia vulgaris* or Loquat Leaf - *Folium eriobotryae*) in a special pipe and placing them over identified meridian points of an animal's body. Depending on the condition requiring treatment, different sets of meridian points are 'stimulated' to bring forth a desired therapeutic effect.

In the traditional Chinese system of healing, the concept of sickness (or various other conditions) being caused by stagnant "Qi" at certain meridian points has been the guiding principle for thousands of years. Sustained moxibustion sessions unblock "Qi" congestions and restores a balanced energy flow throughout the whole body system. This is achieved by allowing radiant heat from the thermal application of moxibustion to penetrate deeply into specific meridian points of the subject's body, thereby eliciting a physiologically healing response.

Specifically, the treatment contributes toward pain relief (arising from inflamed tissues), stiff joints and ligaments, skin disorders (atopic dermatitis) and hernia. Another important therapeutic effect is a gradual but steady strengthening of the immune system. Painless and without side effects, both adult and senior companions can benefit from this gentle yet effective healing modality.



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