

List of Back Shu Points Locations for Dogs

The Back Shu (transporting) Points are all on the Urinary Bladder channel and are all 1.5 Cun lateral to the dorsal midline of the body. The Back Shu points are used to directly effect the internal organs and are especially used to treat chronic conditions of the internal organs because they have a direct connection to the relevant organs. The Back Shu points can also treat acute conditions of the organs. These points are commonly used for Interior diseases of the Yin and Yang organs. There are also Shu points placed along this channel that have a direct affect on related parts of the body such as BI-16 for the Governing Vessel, BI-17 for the Diaphragm, BI-24 for the Sea of Qi, BI-26 for the lower back and Uterus, BI-29 for the sacrum and BI-30 for the Anus. The therapist should memorize these points thoroughly. You will see the numbering system for these points first in the list, then the vertebral space listed from which to identify the level of the point for identification purposes. The level of the vertebra is taken as the space just caudal to that vertebral spinous process. We find the T3 space by having the dog or cat stand up, we then find the acromion process of the scapula and trace the spine of the scapula up to the withers, the T3 space is directly in line with the spine of the scapula on the midline of the dorsal surface of the body. The 1.5 cun measurement in humans is derived from a common measurement that is derived from identifying the medial scapular border and this would be commonly recognized as be 3 cun from the midline of the body. In animals this measurement would be hard to rely on since each animal has varying degrees of laxity or tension in the muscles which hold the scapula to the thorax. A better landmark to use is the end of the transverse process of the spine, especially in the thoracic region. You can palpate and find a dip where the rib dives underneath the transverse process here. More commonly since we are doing acupressure, using thumb pressure on these points, if we stay in the lamina groove of the vertebra all of the way down to the sacrum then we will be close enough to treat the point.

When palpating to find the spaces between the spinous processes of the vertebra we will need to look for the little valleys between the spinous processes, so maintain firm pressure as you glide down the spinous processes to identify each space between the spinous processes. The interspinous ligaments which connect each spinous process are thicker in

some areas so we need to maintain enough pressure to feel the spaces. You also have another landmark to use if you are unsure of your exact location along the vertebra which is the floating rib, which is connected to the T13 vertebra. You can easily palpate the end point of the 13 rib and its caudal border and then count caudally or cranially from there. Another quick reference is around T9 where the spinous process start to become more anticlinal so there will be a dip in the top line of the back quite often here.

UB-13 T3 Lung
UB-14 T4 Pericardium
UB-15 T5 Heart
UB-16 T6 Governing Vessel (du mai) Yang Vessel
UB-17 T7 Diaphragm
UB-18 T10 Liver
UB-19 T11 Gall Bladder
UB-20 T12 Spleen
UB-21 T13 Stomach
UB-22 L1 Triple Warmer (SanJiao)
UB-23 L2 Kidney
UB-24 L4 Sea of Qi
UB-25 L5 Large Intestine
UB-26 L6 Gate of Yuan (Source Qi)
UB-27 L7 Small Intestine
UB-28 S1 Bladder

List of Shu Points on the Thoracic and Caudal Limb

Starting and ending points for the six channels that start or end on the caudal limb. The order goes from medial to caudal and starts at the nail bed of the second phalanx. You should note that all of these points are Well (Jing) points and are either the beginning of the channel or the end of the channel and the Well points in the caudal limb are either the Wood or Metal element. This is important in remembering the Mother-Child relationship and the sedation or tonification points along the channel. If you have memorized the Five Element creation cycle order it will be easy to find the sedation and tonification points. Wood creates Fire, Fire creates Earth, Earth creates Metal, Metal creates Water, and Water creates Wood. So Wood is the Mother of Fire and Fire is the Child of Wood. Sedate the Child in Excess conditions and tonify the Mother in cases of deficiency. The Mother point along the meridian of that channel will always be the tonification point of that channels element and of that channel the Child point will always be the sedation point of that channels element and that channel. For example if there is a deficiency of Stomach Qi we would tonify the Mother of the Stomachs element. Since the Stomach is in the Earth Element we would tonify the Fire Element point along the

Stomach channel because Fire is the Mother of Earth. In this case we would tonify Stomach 41 which is the Fire point along the Stomach channel. If we have an excess of Stomach Qi, we would sedate the Child of the Stomachs Element, since the Stomach is in the Earth Element we would sedate the Metal point along the Stomach channel which in this case is Stomach 45. One more example, if we have a deficiency of Heart Qi we would tonify Heart 9 which is the Wood point along the Heart channel. Wood is the mother of Fire and the Heart is in the Fire Element and we tonify the Mother in deficiency conditions. If the Heart is in excess we would sedate Heart 7 because Heart 7 is the Earth point along the Heart channel and Earth is the Child of Fire in the creation cycle. West Boulevard Veterinary Clinic has graciously provided an excellent reference of channels and points with all of the information you would need to find these points so please bookmark this site and use the charts as a reference. <http://wbvc.bc.ca/ivas-points/>. The Chi Institute also has these points listed in an easy to reference set of laminated charts and I suggest that you get all of their charts for easy reference in your clinic or to bring in the field with you since these charts are laminated. http://www.tcv.com/resource/resource_newbook.htm.

Caudal Limb

Spleen-medial border of the second phalanx, Spleen1, Well-Wood
Liver-lateral border of the second phalanx, Liver1, Well-Wood
Stomach-lateral border of the third phalanx, Stomach45, Well-Metal
Kidney-center of the proximal border of the metatarsal pad, Kidney1, Well-Wood
Gall Bladder-lateral border of the fourth phalanx, Gall Bladder44, Well-Metal
Urinary Bladder-lateral border of the fifth phalanx, Urinary Bladder67, Well-Metal

Thoracic Limb

Starting from the dew claw which is the first phalanx on the thoracic limb and then running medial to laterally from the first phalanx in order. Once again unless otherwise stated the points are located at the nail bed of the digit.

Lung-medial border of the first phalanx, Lung11, Well-Wood
Large Intestine-medial border of the second phalanx, Large Intestine1, Well-Metal
Pericardium-medial border of the fourth phalanx, Pericardium9, Well-Wood
Triple Heater, lateral border of the fourth phalanx, Triple Heater1, Well-Metal
Heart, medial border of the fifth phalanx, Heart9, Well-Wood
Small Intestine, lateral border of the fifth phalanx, Small Intestine1, Well-Metal

Note: on the thoracic limb the order that the meridians end or begin from medial to lateral follow their paired, Yin-Yang relationship. Lung-Large Intestine, Pericardium-Triple Heater, Heart-Small Intestine.

Also note that in all cases the points along the phalanx are Well points and are either Wood or Metal points. The Well points are either at the beginning or end of the channel

so if you know how many points are in each of the twelve meridians you will be easily able to know the numbers of the Well points.

To tonify the point in acupressure (Tui-Na) we use thumb, digit or elbow point pressure (An-Fa). The thumb is generally preferred. The method for tonification is by pressing with mild pressure for a long duration with high frequency in a clockwise direction. The method for sedation is to press with strong pressure (within the animals tolerance) for a short duration with low frequency and in a counter-clockwise direction.