

My name is Cheyenne Bone and I am a current fourth year veterinary student at Oklahoma State University. I am originally from Weatherford, Texas where I was raised on my grandparent's small cow-calf operation. Throughout growing up my grandmother utilized various plant-based remedies and therapies to help treat and maintain our health. We (the family) use grapefruit-seed extract (GSE) internally to fight bacterial infections and as a prophylactic. Last summer, my aunt used GSE and oil of oregano to cure a moderately severe ear infection in her 115-pound American Bulldog mixed breed dog. We use tea tree oil to treat insect bites and scratches. My grandmother currently is using tea tree oil to treat toenail fungus, and she is seeing improvement. Years ago, my aunt used olive leaf extract to combat a sinus/bronchial infection that was going around. Others at work missed 2 weeks – my aunt, though ill, didn't miss a day. Family members use Milk Thistle to help protect their liver from the negative effects of other medications they are required to take. My grandmother uses clay and activated charcoal to protect her gums. My aunt uses activated charcoal as an ingredient in her homemade toothpaste. My aunt and I both have used clay as a paste to treat insect bites and rashes.

As I entered veterinary school, I realized how important alternative and integrative therapies are in patient treatments, general care and the prevention of diseases. In a means to gain knowledge and technical skill in such therapies, I enrolled in the Mixed Animal Acupuncture Course through the Chi Institute. I passed and completed this course in December of 2018. During my sessions at the Chi Institute, the implementation of herbal therapies in conjunction with acupuncture were discussed. I would like to take an herbal course to further my knowledge in the use of botanicals and herbs as a therapeutic part of patient care. The Chi Institute offers a course in herbal medicine which I would like to enroll in as soon as possible after my graduation from OSU. After graduation, I hope to join a mixed-animal practice where I can implement both eastern and western medicine into my daily practices. Acupuncture is a beneficial tool in diagnosing, treating and preventing diseases in animals. This modality can be greatly enhanced through the addition of herbal medicine. Certainly, herbal medicine can enhance and support other TCVM therapies, but more importantly, herbal medicines can provide alternate means of a therapeutic treatment that can result in fewer side effects – such as a means of pain relief in a patient who is sensitive to NSAIDs or has preexisting liver damage; treatment in epileptic patients; care of inflammatory bowel disease, etc. I desire to incorporate a well-rounded and integrative therapeutic and preventative approach within my everyday practices as a mixed animal practitioner.