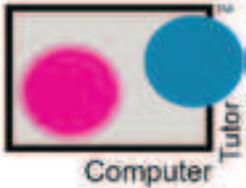


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Member of The British Acupuncture Council

## Conrad Nix B.Sc hons Traditional Chinese Medicine

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## Traditional Chinese Medicine in West Kirby

Conrad Nix's interest in Traditional Chinese Medicine Acupuncture (TCM) began over ten years ago as a recipient himself for muscular skeletal pain following a work-related injury and then to successfully stop smoking. He made the decision to change career and graduated with a BSc (Hons) in TCM Acupuncture from the University of Lincoln where he completed over 500 hours of clinical practice. He also spent several months studying in Kunming City, China, in 2011 observing Chinese doctors in an Oriental Medical clinical setting, applying Acupuncture, Moxibustion and Cupping techniques to patients whilst studying Oriental Medical theory at the clinic through the tutelage of the resident Chinese Doctors.

With full professional accreditation with the British Acupuncture Council, no condition is too complex. Conrad particularly enjoys treating all muscular skeletal conditions but is equally happy to treat any condition from headaches and migraines, through menopausal symptoms to mental and emotional conditions. With training in Tuina (a traditional Chinese form of massage), becoming a Reiki Master in 2009 and an avid yoga enthusiast, Conrad has a passion for encouraging holism. Conrad has a dedication and compassion for his clients and a deep-seated conviction that acupuncture is an exceptional alternative therapy to bring about holistic change in the human body with no side effects.



# The Pet Column

By Abbas Hussain of Principal Pets

## Britain's Secret WW2 Pet Massacre

2019 marks the 80th anniversary of the start of the 2nd World War. It also marks 80 years since approximately 750,000 of Britain's pets were killed in one week.

In 1939, just before the outbreak of war, the British Government formed the National Air Raid Precautions Animals Committee (NARPAC) to decide what would happen to the many pets living in Britain's cities in the event of an air raid. NARPAC's main concern was that pets would use up valuable meat and other food supplies which were rationed. The committee drafted a notice – Advice to Animal Owners.

The pamphlet said: "If at all possible, send or take your household animals into the country in advance of an emergency." It ended with the advice: "If you cannot place them in the care of neighbours, it really is kindest to have them destroyed." On the reverse of the pamphlet featured an advert for a captive bolt pistol that could be used to "humanely destroy" your pet.

When war was officially declared in September 1939, thousands rushed to the surgeries of the PDSA and RSPCA. At the PDSA, founder Maria Dickin said of the events: "Our technical officers called upon to perform this unhappy duty will never forget the tragedy of those days." The first bombing of London in September 1940 prompted many more pet owners to rush to have their pets put to sleep. Historian Hilda Kean says that it was just another way of signifying that war had begun. "It was one of things people had to do when the news came – evacuate the children, put up the blackout curtains, kill the cat."

NARPAC faced strong resistance to their advice from groups including Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, which fed and housed over 145,000 dogs during the course of the war. Royalty was also against the idea, with the Duchess of Hamilton creating her own cat sanctuary in a heated hanger at Ferne House in Wiltshire. The RSPCA and PDSA were also against the measures, although when the war started it was their surgeons who were required to euthanise a great number of animals. But the government had planted a powerful idea – the advice was carried in almost every newspaper and was even broadcast on the BBC. Pip Dodd, curator at the National Army Museum, explained the mass killings by saying "people were worried about the threat of bombing and food shortages, and felt it inappropriate to have the luxury of a pet during wartime". Some newspapers tried to stop people making the decision hastily, with Susan Day writing in the *Sunday Mirror*: "Putting your pets to sleep is a very tragic decision. Do not take it before it is absolutely necessary."

Estimates say over 750,000 pets died as a result of the wartime euthanasia and that many owners who took the decision to have their pet put down regretted it after getting over fears of bombings and food shortages. They also blamed the government for drumming up fear and creating hysteria.

Set against such tragic human suffering during the war, it is perhaps understandable that this sad story about pets is not better known. But people were rightly very scared and many believed there was a need to take such dreadful action. The story is not more widely known because it was such a difficult story to tell, says Hilda Kean. Her new book titled *The Great Cat and Dog Massacre* was released last year to draw attention to this tragedy and has now led to a fundraising campaign to fund a memorial like the one in Hyde Park dedicated to the working animals of the war.

# Principal Pets

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