Five Animal Frolics of Hua Tuo

Crane:

Crane Breathing

Crane's Beak

Crane Spreads Both Wings / Three Powers Crane

Crane Squatting

Crane Stands on One Leg

Crane Spreads Wings Behind

Crane Walks, Wings Together

Crane Soars Aloft

Crane Walks, Wings Beat Back

Crane Walks Along Riverbank

Bear:

Bear Breathing

Bear Turns, Paws to Sky (Pushes to Sky)

Bear Turns, Paws to Horizon (Pushes Behind)

Bear Turns, Paws to Earth (Pushes Down)

Bear Extends Claws

Bear Double Push

Bear Double Push to Ground

Bear Double Push to Ground and Sits Back

Bear Ambles Through the Woods

Bear Walks with Fists

Pointing at the Sun, Holding the Moon

Old Bear Plucking Berries

Monkey:

Monkey Offers Small Fruit

Monkey Offers Large Fruit

Monkey Grasps Branch

Monkey Looks Behind

Monkey Offers Fruit Twice

Deer:

Deer Standing at Meadow's Edge

Deer Walks Through the Woods

Deer Turns Head Behind

Deer Stretches Down to Drink

Stag Leaps Up

Wild Stag Twists and Sits

Deer Parts the Grasses

Tiger:

Tiger Searches for Food
Tiger Seizes Prey
Tiger Leaps from Den
Tiger Leaps from Den Twice
Wild Tiger Roams the Steppes

Some Practice Principles:

- Not on full stomach (1+ hours after eating), not famished
- Outside in fresh air, not in cold wind
- Early morning has advantages, any time better than no time
- Not if very tired or extremely sick
- Not to sweating (over exertion), light sweat is OK.
- Perseverance no quick results
- Practice a slow and steady pace, inward focus
- Balance inner spirit and outer form unified; express the spirit of the animal
- Relaxed body and tranquil mind
- Concentrated awareness not distracted
- Listen to your body; when pain, no gain effortless
- Rounded and spherical movements
- Whole body is involved; feet > waist > hands
- Natural breathing, not forced

Warm-up:

- 1. Ankle circles
- 2. Knee bends
- 3. Waist circles
- 4. Shoulder circles (hands on shoulders)
- 5. Turn neck
- 6. Rub fingers
- 7. Shake the clapper
- 8. Swings

Feb 27, 2021