

David Asmar, DVM
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The Equine Report

Mare Care Stallion Evaluation Lameness Surgery Chiropractic Advanced Dentistry

VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC CARE

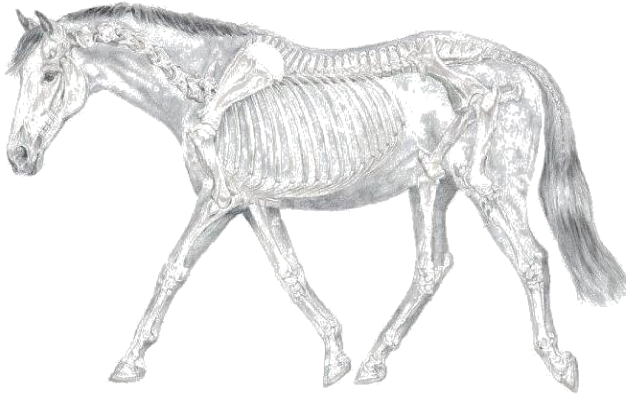
Though the first chiropractic school opened in 1897, the use of manipulations of the spine to treat pain and disease has been documented since as early as 2700 BC. In the past 100 years, as chiropractic manipulations have become better defined, animal chiropractic has developed into a proven integrative treatment modality as well.

So what exactly is animal chiropractic? It is an integral part of the holistic trend in animal health care.

This philosophy is focused on the relationships between structures and functions of the body and how these may affect the animal's health. Years ago, it was thought that chiropractic adjustments had to deal with manipulating a bone that was out of place. We now know that this is more often not the case. In fact, a true bone out of place, as in a fracture, luxation or subluxation is most likely a veterinary emergency. Instead, chiropractic deals with the relationship between two adjacent structures and surrounding tissues which have an altered ability to move optimally. Chiropractic adjustments, then, deal only in the natural range of motion between these structures, thus helping the body restore its natural function. A chiropractic adjustment involves a very specific movement directed at a very specific articulation between two bones.

More and more horse and dog owners are recognizing the benefits of chiropractic care to maintain or even improve performance and overall health. Many of our horse and dog disciplines ask them to do something they might not naturally do in the wild. For example, though horses can and do jump in the wild, how often do they

jump 16 different jumps in the course of 3 minutes in the wild? Also, how many dogs in the wild will run agility courses? The different specialized equine and canine disciplines can be difficult on their body. Even if they don't show an obvious lameness, they often have back or pelvic pain associated with their job. Sometimes the pain may manifest itself in an obscure way, such as decreased willingness to pick up a certain lead, or reluctance to jump or turn a certain direction. Sometimes, performance simply seems to decline slightly with no known



reason why. These are instances where chiropractic care may be of benefit.

Before having someone evaluate your horse for a chiropractic adjustment, it is very important to rule out various causes of lameness and poor performance. A primary veterinarian should always be consulted first to check the animal's health and make sure there is no lameness or illness present. Chiropractic evaluation and adjustment work well in conjunction with traditional veterinary medicine.

In addition, performance animals may benefit from having routine chiropractic care. Because chiropractic focuses on maintaining the body's natural biomechanics, this can help performance horses stay injury-free. Subtle changes in the way a horse can move its back and pelvis, over time, can affect the way s/he moves and lands his/her legs. Repetitive abnormal leg placement can lead to serious lameness issues.

If you decide you would like to have your horse evaluated for chiropractic care, the next step is making sure you use someone you can trust. There are two organizations

in the United States which oversee animal chiropractic care: the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA) and the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA). Certification by either of these organizations assures that the practitioner has had proper training so as not to harm an animal. Either veterinarians or human chiropractors can be certified by these organizations.

Dr. Rosario will be certified by IVCA at the end of August 2011. We'll be providing veterinary chiropractic services starting on August 2011. Used properly, veterinary chiropractic can provide a more complete and integrated approach to the animal's needs, improving performance and overall health.

TANSY RAGWORT

One of Oregon's most invasive weeds, tansy, has aggressively multiplied in recent years. Once almost completely eradicated by biological controls and aggressive spraying, recent changes in climate conditions and a long wet spring have allowed for a resurgence of this aggressive and toxic plant. Chronic exposure to tansy can be lethal due to high levels of Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids (PA) mostly on the flowers and leaves. These toxins will cause liver failure and central nervous system depression in horses, cattle and small ruminants. Most animals will stay away from tansy due to its bitter taste, but with overgrazed pastures they become more appealing to the hungry



individual. Manual removal and chemical application during the early spring and late fall are the best methods of control. Mowing without removal of the roots and especially during flowering and seeding will lead to further spread of this noxious weed.

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INSECT HYPERSENSITIVITY

We have seen an increasing number of horses with insect hypersensitivity allergic reactions. The combination of a long wet spring, followed by a mild summer, has left us with high numbers of pollens, allergens and an abundance of insects causing problems to many horses in the area.

The most common case of hypersensitivity in local horses is an immune reaction to the saliva from insect bites. Commonly known as “sweet itch” or “summer itch”, this form of allergic reaction is usually associated with little biting midges (*Culicoides* flies) but can be caused by any of the biting insects including mosquitoes, stable flies, mites and even fleas. Horses will present with hairless patches on their face and abdomen and aggressive rubbing of their mane and tail. They will progress to having extensive hair loss on their chest, belly and sheath/udder area with thick scarred skin and draining serum from inflamed bites. Aggressive treatment with anti-inflammatories and sometimes antihistamines are necessary to prevent self mutilation.

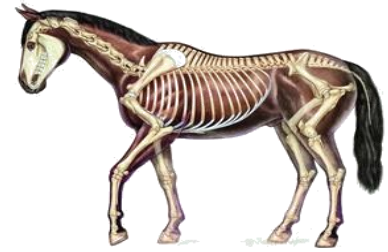
Oral supplements containing Omega3 fatty acids can promote healing of the skin and help relieve itching. Severe cases require systemic treatments with steroids to depress the immune system response to the insect saliva. No over the counter human medications seem to work but steroid creams can help at times to control the itching.

Prevention by using insect repellants, fly sprays and/or fly sheets to keep insects from biting is the best approach. Environmental control of dust and allergens as well as pasture control of manure and stagnant water are always key to a successful outcome. Consult with your veterinarian to determine a multi mode approach that is ideal for your horse and his/her specific condition.



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**INTRODUCTION TO
VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC
CARE SEMINAR**



Saturday, September 24, 2011
6:30 PM at the Equine Hospital
Presented by Dr. Shakyra Rosario

*Please RSVP to (503) 630-4558
Coffee and dessert will be provided.*

Clinic Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM—6:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM—5:00 PM
24 hour emergency service 7 days a week.
After hours call (503) 721-4384.



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