

How Long Will the Treatment Take?

In some cases chiropractic care takes time, since we are allowing the body to heal itself after proper nerve function has been restored. In general animals recover quickly but older animals and more profound problems take longer to repair. Some problems are so complex that chiropractic care will not completely solve the problem. Sometimes further testing such as radiography, lab tests, and sonography may be necessary to further evaluate the problem.

Factors Affecting Rate of Recovery

- **The length of time since onset of problem:**
The more time that has elapsed since the onset of injury, the longer the recovery may take. Just as it takes time to get sick, it also takes time to recover.
- **Age and Physical condition:**
Older animals heal more slowly but the quality of their lives may be greatly increased with chiropractic care.
- **Severity of the Condition:**
How much damage has been? Sometimes there is simply no repair for severely damaged tissues. For example severe damage to the spinal cord by a herniated disc may result in slow and minimal recovery despite the treatment regimen.
- **Cooperation:**
The speed of recovery often depends on how well the owner cooperates with the animal's chiropractor. Removal of the pet from care too soon may prevent complete healing and recovery.



Dr. Block did his undergraduate studies at the University of New Haven and U.C.L.A. He completed his graduate studies at the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic in 1969.

Dr. Block has been involved in the field of animal chiropractic since 1998 and is a candidate for certification by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. He attends the ongoing post graduate study program through Options for Animals.

Dr. Block is not a veterinarian but serves as an Animal Chiropractic Consultant to several veterinary practices in Southern California.

Dr. Block maintains an active Equine Chiropractic practice emphasizing the anatomical relationship between the horse and the rider. In his spare time Dr. Block enjoys Scuba diving and spiritual studies.

Overview

Dr. Block functions as consultant to the veterinary staff to ensure that your pet receives the most appropriate and effective care possible.

The veterinarian, by taking a concise history and performing a detailed examination, determines if your pet is a good candidate for chiropractic care.

Most dogs are initially seen by the animal chiropractor weekly, but some may need to be seen more frequently if their case is severe. Then they are seen with decreasing frequency until their body retains the structural corrections necessary to maintain optimal health.

Maintenance visits may be recommended to reduce the probability of future structural problems.

CHIROPRACTIC CARE FOR YOUR PET



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The Ten Top Reason's Your Dog Should See a Chiropractor

1. Your dog has no apparent pain but has lost vitality, such as jumping on and off the bed or car with the same enthusiasm as he used to.
2. Chiropractic, combined with physical therapy, enhances your pet's immune system and accelerates recovery from surgery.
3. Adjustment of vertebral subluxations reduces pain and improves mobility.
4. Reduces the effects of arthritis with gentle chiropractic adjustment and therapeutic exercise.
5. Improves the quality of life of the geriatric dog by influencing the nervous system in maintaining proper health.
6. Reduces the probability of recurrent injury or inflammations within the musculo-skeletal system.
7. Enhances performance of show dogs and athletes alike. Improves agility, strength, balance and confirmation.
8. Complements the veterinary care your dog receives.
9. Cost effective: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
10. You love your pet. Your family's best friend deserves the most comprehensive care available. That is why chiropractic care is available through your veterinarian's office. Your dog can be the happiest member of your family.



What Animal Chiropractic Is



The role of these relationships are important for the restoration and maintenance of health.

Chiropractors focus on the interactions between neurological mechanisms and the bio-mechanics of the spine. Therapy is directed to the vertebral column to alter the progression of disease processes.

The structural integrity of your pet's spine plays a major factor in the health, well being and longevity of your animal. Your animal's chiropractor is a bio-mechanical specialist who is trained to diagnose and treat joint dysfunction primarily in the spine. Detection and correction of these areas of joint fixation allow the nervous system to function at it's most optimal level. The nervous system is what supplies the body with energy. If the spinal segments are compromised in an way the rest of the body suffers in it's need for energy to heal.

Adjustments are specific corrective forces that are applied in an anatomically prescribed direction which in turn restores proper motion, proprioception and musculo-skeletal balance in the body. The chiropractor may also use other ancillary procedures to help reduce soft tissue antagonism. Use of ultrasound, muscle stimulation, massage and myofascial technics may be applied to support the adjustive process.

Animal chiropractic is that science and art which uses the inherent recuperative powers of the body and deals with the relationship between the nervous system and the spinal column and it's associated structures.

Does My Pet Need to Be Adjusted?

Since prevention is always the best approach to health care, every pet is a potential chiropractic patient. All physical exams should include a spinal assessment and adjusted if indicated. Specific breeds of dogs are predisposed to spinal dysfunction so please consult with your Veterinarian.

Most subluxations are caused by macro-trauma or microtrauma. Macrotrauma is a major injury such as being hit by a car or taking a bad fall. Microtraumas include smaller injuries that may happen repeatedly such as jumping for balls or leaping in and out of cars. Drugs and environmental stresses are other causes of subluxation. In addition as your pet ages it does not handle stress as well and tension accumulates in joints.

If your pet has undergone surgery, then it may also require chiropractic care. Injuries severe enough to require surgery, muscular imbalances have undoubtedly occurred before and after the operation.

These imbalances, along with gait abnormalities that result from surgical pain or dysfunction, add stress to other joints and may create more problems because animals cannot tell us when something is wrong, we have to observe their behavior carefully.

Behavioral changes usually indicate your animal's response to adjustment. Lameness, decreased activity, restlessness, appetite changes, aversion to the leash and unwillingness to follow a lead are indicators that your pet should be evaluated by an animal chiropractor.

Athletic and show dogs also benefit greatly from adjustments. Just as the human athlete requires unrestricted, pain free movement, the same holds true for animals. Optimal performance cannot occur if the body 's bio-mechanical integrity is askew. In fact in some cases excessive activity may be detrimental to the health of an animal that needs to be adjusted.