

DOGS & CHIROPRACTIC

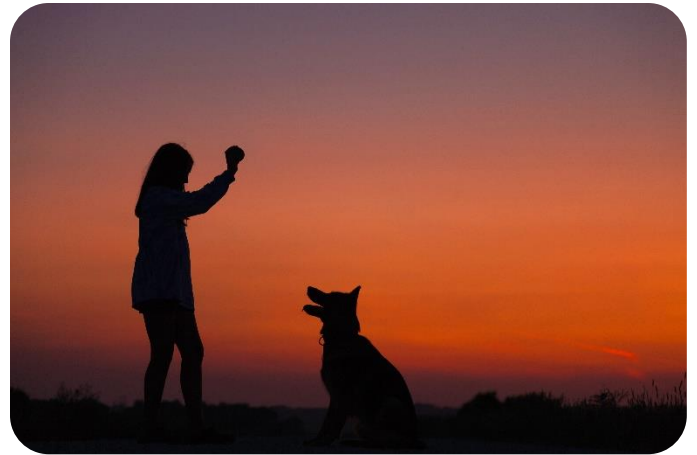
DOGS & CHIROPRACTIC FACTS

Animal rehabilitation is a growing field, and it has expanded to include complementary and alternative veterinary medicine (CAVM) including chiropractic. Many animal owners currently report using CAVM without consulting their veterinarian, so researchers are striving to understand if the increased popularity of CAVM is due to increased demand from animal owners or changing attitudes of physicians.

Interest in complementary alternative medicine (CAM) for humans has not been limited to treatment of musculoskeletal disorders. It has been found that almost 40% of parents with a child suffering functional gastrointestinal disorders admitted to using CAM to alleviate symptoms. Because many people are seeking chiropractic care for themselves and their families, it follows that people would also be interested in chiropractic care for their animals. The efficacy of chiropractic has been shown repeatedly throughout its 122-year history and a growing body of scientific research supports it.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) adopted guidelines regarding the chiropractic care of horses in 1992, and the American Veterinary Medical Association recognized the validity of chiropractic for animals in 1998. Animal chiropractic is currently practiced by both licensed veterinarians and chiropractors in the United States, and animal chiropractic training has been incorporated into chiropractic and veterinary programs internationally.

There are very important structural and functional relationships between the spine and the brain that if disturbed can result in a host of problems with how the body functions whether it's a human or a dog. If there structural shifts of the spinal vertebra these can lead to nerve obstruction. It is this obstruction, called vertebral subluxation, that chiropractors correct.



The 24 dogs in this study ranged in age from 3 to 17 years and were a mix of breeds. In addition to paralysis of the back legs they had been diagnosed by veterinarians with spinal disc disease. 17 out of the 24 were also incontinent and all of them had muscle wasting.

The dogs were all examined by the chiropractors which revealed structural shifts of the mid and low back and pelvis. Structural shifts in the spine can develop and this can lead to obstruction of the nerves. It is this obstruction, called vertebral subluxations, that chiropractors correct.

All 24 dogs had a reversal of their paralysis, incontinence and muscle wasting following chiropractic care. The average number of visits was 5.

These results suggest a possible link between neurological disorders like paraplegia and spinal subluxations in canines. Correcting the subluxations through the use of specific chiropractic adjustments appears to have led to resolution of the problem. The authors called for further research in this area.

Reversal of Paraplegia Secondary to Intervertebral Disc Disease in 24 Canines with Vertebral Subluxation: A Retrospective Analysis of Outcomes Following Chiropractic. Christina Cole, B.S., D.C., CIVCA & Grant Tully B.S., D.C., CIVCA. Annals of Vertebral Subluxation Research ~ November 26, 2018 ~ Pages 173-179

