

## **Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation VOM™**

Many people are finding the limitations to mainstream human medicine and are turning increasingly to alternative health care simply because they get the results they want, in the manner they want. It's also true that in the last decade, more and more horse owners are exploring alternative methods of treatment for their horses. One of the more exciting technologies to be discovered is called Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation. Although relatively new to Idaho, it has been used in well over 60,000 cases nationwide with an average success rate of 80%.

VOM, as it's sometimes referred to, is similar to human chiropractic methods in that the treatment goal is to affect the musculoskeletal system of the animal by working on the nervous system. VOM differs from equine chiropractic in that it's gentler, as no joints are directly manipulated. There is no "cracking" or "popping" of the joints during a VOM treatment. Both are very effective at treating a large number of problems, since they are working on the source of the issues, rather than just the symptoms.

By stimulating the nervous system, VOM reduces the pain, swelling, and inflammation of many disease processes. When the vicious cycle of inflammation is broken, the body has a much greater chance to heal. A VOM practitioner will do this by applying a hand held instrument to the horse's back and neck. The instrument introduces a type of very fast, low motion energy into the sensory nerves of the horse. This energy then blocks the input of pain nerves called nociceptors through a process called presynaptic inhibition. An easy way to think of it is that we're flipping the circuit breakers in the nervous system back on so that everything can work again.

While some advanced neurology explains what's happening, it's easy for anyone watching to see the effects. Most horses will visibly relax after one to two minutes of treatment. Their heads go down, their eyes get droopy, and they will start chewing and licking. Relief is fast and obvious.

VOM is used as adjunct to traditional forms of vet care. Treatments are fast, accurate, and gentle when performed by a certified veterinary chiropractor. VOM really shines when medicines aren't working and owners want to avoid surgery, although it's also incredibly useful for gait problems and performance boosting. A certified VOM practitioner will always work your vet to make sure that your horse will be treated properly for whatever condition it may have.

For more information about VOM, contact

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### **A. What is VOM™?**

Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation is a healing technology that locates areas of the animal's nervous system that have fallen out of communication, and re-establishes neuronal communication and thus induces healing. VOM is singularly the most simple, effective and safe healing modality in veterinary care to date.

### **B. Is Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation Chiropractic Care?**

No! VOM exists in between veterinary medicine and chiropractic care. It has similarities to some of the chiropractic modalities and functions by restoring function by reducing "subluxations" as is done in chiropractic care. It uses a hand-held device that is used in a popular human chiropractic technique called "Activator Methods" but it is not to be confused with that technique. The differences between VOM and Chiropractic care are significant and distinct. VOM exists in a gray area between both professions (Veterinary and Chiropractic) and benefits from the positive aspects of both, a hybrid, and thus more effective than either by themselves. VOM is formally recognized in Washington State, by the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, Association of Pet Dog Trainers, the Maine Veterinary Medical Association, and the German Shepherd Clubs of America, to name a few.

### **C. Why is VOM so Accurate?**

Because VOM finds and reduces **all** neuronal subluxations. All neuronal subluxations have a pathological reflex demonstrably associated with them. A pathological reflex is like a knee jerk response. It is either there or it is not. It is an objective means to determine the presence and reduction of neuronal subluxation. The pathological read is not "partially there", "kind of there", or "almost there" adding a factor of subjectivity to interpretation. VOM is a precisely objective science.

### **D. How it Works**

All chiropractic modalities have one thing in common in that they all reduce the vertebral subluxation complex by providing motion or force to the fixated or subluxated joint.

**Spinal or Injury = Neuronal Subluxation Syndrome = Pathological Read**

**Neuronal subluxation + Motion (force) = Subluxation Reduced**

So if you put motion into a joint that is associated with a neuronal subluxation sign, (a pathological read), you reduce the subluxation. It is that simple. All the various types of chiropractic techniques have this motion or force into the subluxated joint in common. VOM delivers its force with a hand-held device called a spinal accelerometer. It looks a bit like a spring-loaded doorstop. Your VOM practitioner has extensive references covering the research investigating the principles portrayed above and can provide them upon request. These references are replete in chiropractic journals.

### **E. What Does the Hand-held Device Do to My Pet?**

It reduces the subluxations present in the joints of your pet. It cannot create a subluxation in your pet. It can only flip the neuronal switches on that are turned off to the 'on' position. It cannot flip a switch off. It provides very accurate and precise motion to specific areas of the pet's spine and if a subluxation is present it can detect and reduce it quickly and without pain or injury. It can confirm that the neuronal subluxation is reduced even if it is not associated with an anatomical listing.

### **F. Can the Device and VOM Harm My Pet?**

No. The beauty of the VOM Technology is that it provides the exact amount of force to the subluxated joint needed to reduce the subluxation without having to induce a lot of motion. It is motion that can potentially injure the animal, torsion, twisting, mass movement etc. inherent in manual adjusting techniques. The device trades motion for speed to maintain the force needed to reduce the subluxation through Newton's Second Law of Motion ( $FORCE=MASS \times ACCELERATION$ ). In over 35,000 animal adjustments including pets with fractures, tumors and acute spinal diseases I have yet to injure a pet with the accelerometer. (Note: sometimes the adjustments may cause some minor pain or discomfort but does not produce enough movement to cause injury)

### **G. Why Not Just Use Your Hands Like Other Veterinary Chiropractors?**

Because our hands are too slow. The fastest an excellent veterinary chiropractor can move a joint under optimum conditions and patient cooperation is 80 milliseconds. The animal's natural reflexive resistance to adjustment is 20 milliseconds or 4 times faster. Conversely the device fires at a rate of 2-4 milliseconds which 5-10 times faster than the animal's ability to resist adjustment. The patient is always adjusted, every time, all the time, whether they want to or not, in any position, attitude or mood.

### **H. Is VOM Effective On Horses?**

You bet! All the reads that we see in the dog and the cat are magnified in the horse. Areas usually devoid of subluxations in the shoulder areas of dogs and cats are hot spots in the equine.

### **I. What Can VOM Treat?**

Routinely treated are conditions such as:

Acute and non-acute lameness	Constipation
Progressive lameness	Megacolon
Hip Dysplasia-like syndromes	IV disc disease
Progressive myelopathies	Down in the rears
Urinary and fecal incontinence	Unilateral lameness
Wobbler's Disease	Diseases of the knee
Increased or decreased GI mobility disease	Esophageal disease
Performance problems	Behavioral problems
Agility dysfunction	Gait abnormalities

### **J. What Will Happen to My Pet?**

1. The Veterinary Chiropractor will do a "diagnostic pass" which entails him/her running the device down the pet's spine, search for pathological reads indicative of subluxations. The subluxations found will be recorded.
2. If significant subluxations are found and they correspond to the clinical disease presented, then a course of VOM treatment will be recommended.
3. An estimate may be generated and other procedures may be recommended and quoted such as blood work, x-ray, and other diagnostic tests.
4. A second VOM pass will be made (therapeutic pass) and the changes to the reading pattern will be noted. Your pet may be already showing signs of improvement.
5. A third VOM pass will usually be made, (second therapeutic pass) and that data evaluated. Most if not all of the reads may be reduced at this point.
6. Your pet may then be sent home or may be observed overnight by the clinician depending upon the nature of the case.
7. An appointment to return for readjustment will be made upon release and post-adjustment instructions will be given as to activity and potential discomfort that evening.
8. Some medicines may be dispensed depending on the clinician and the nature of the case.
9. A series of 3-5 readjustments may be needed to reach a point where no reads are found in which case the subluxation pattern is "cured".
10. Maintenance checks may be recommended every 4-6 months to watch for reoccurrence.

### **K. What Should I Expect as Results from VOM Treatments**

You may see a response while your pet is on the examination table. It can be that fast. An experienced VPC may have treated cases where the animals haven't walked for weeks, or even have been given up for dead. With one adjustment thrust, the pet stands and walks about the exam room. The average case will see some sort of positive response within the first week and commonly the entering clinical complaint will be gone within the first three adjustments giving the client the false security that the case is completed. Cases that show no response within 1 month may not resolve towards a satisfactory solution. Cases that have had paralysis or lack of function for years or months may not respond well to VOM, however, one does not know until you try.

### **L. Treatment Failures**

VOM has a treatment success rate of over 80% for most clinical disease. When VOM does fail it's usually due to one of two things:

1. Neurological damage is extensive, significant and permanent (too much serious injury for too long)
2. VOM treatment schedule not kept (most common cause of VOM failure and easiest to prevent)

