

Animals Now Benefitting from Chiropractic Care

By Vanessa Orr
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Just like humans, animals can suffer from a number of health conditions that can affect their quality of life. And while a visit to the veterinarian can help, some owners are taking the care of their pets one step farther - by visiting an animal chiropractor. Working in conjunction with veterinarians, animal chiropractors treat issues ranging from pain and injuries to gait changes and stiffness. Michael Savko, DC, CCSP, CVCP, has been treating animals since 2000, and believes that chiropractic can make a huge difference in an animal's life.

"The number one thing that chiropractic can do is help an animal live a longer, healthier life," he explained. "Chiropractic boosts the immune system, and when you are able to remove neuro-interference, you can improve how a body functions and reduce pain. I have had animals that had to be carried into my office walk out on their own after being treated - sometimes you can have a complete resolution and other times, you may just give them a better day."

"When done correctly, chiropractic can't hurt an animal, so there's nothing to lose," he added. "In some cases, it can get an animal off medications or enable them to avoid surgery; in extreme cases, they might even avoid death."

Dr. Savko graduated from New York Chiropractic College in 1999, where he was originally introduced to the idea of treating animals with chiropractic, and a year later, took a course in Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation (VOM), a healing technology that uses instruments to find and reduce neuromuscular interference in animals. He then worked closely with a local veterinarian on more than 20 cases to become certified. While Dr. Savko does still treat some humans, about 85 percent of his practice is now made up of animals. "While I mainly treat dogs, cats and horses, I have treated pot-bellied pigs, three-legged rabbits, four-legged rabbits, lizards, birds, cows, goats and guinea pigs," he said. "Anything that has a spine can be worked with."

"Though I've been doing this for a long time, I find that it's still considered 'out there' or on the fringe by some people," said Dr. Savko. "But as more people are becoming fed up with the standard medical treatment of drugs, more drugs, and, if that doesn't work, more drugs, they are starting to look for their own answers and waking up to other valuable, valued alternatives like animal chiropractic."

In Pennsylvania, animal chiropractors are required to have a veterinary affiliation. Dr. Savko is affiliated with Suburban Animal Clinic in Butler, and also practices in Pittsburgh, Plum, Ligonier, and Apollo, PA. To learn more, visit www.animalhealingnow.com or call 724-261-7915.

