



Rogue Valley Equine Hospital

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Chiropractic Care
For Horses

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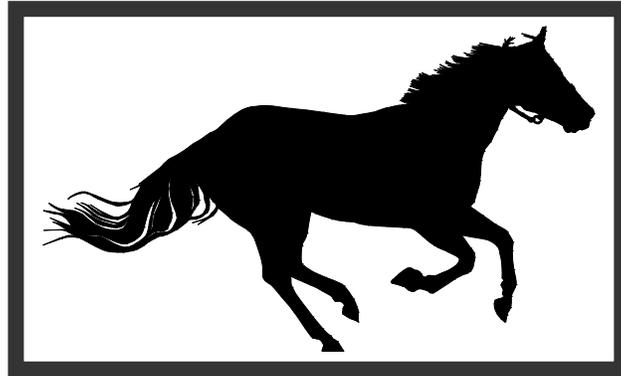
Monday – Friday
8:00am to 5:00pm

Call us for all your
equine health care
needs.

541-826-9001

In case of Emergency
call

541-826-9001
ext 32



Chiropractic Care For Your Horse At RVEH

Chiropractic services at RVEH are provided by Dr. Bill Ferguson. Dr. Ferguson became certified in animal chiropractic by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association in 2000. Dr. Ferguson's chiropractic practice is limited to horses.

How can an animal as large as a horse be adjusted?

The important thing to remember is that properly done, an adjustment is not a move meant to adjust the entire horse, but rather one individual joint in that horse's spine. A chiropractic adjustment is a very specific, high velocity, low force, controlled thrust directed in a specific direction on a specific joint. When the horse is brought into the proper position, relatively little force is needed to achieve the adjustment.

The Chiropractic Examination

The first step in chiropractic care is a complete evaluation and examination. This involves taking a case history, posture analysis, gait analysis, static and motion palpation of the spine and extremities, and muscle palpation. The advantage of having a veterinarian experienced in lameness diagnosis perform the chiropractic evaluation is that lameness is the cause of many chiropractic problems and vice versa. Lameness exams are frequently incorporated into the evaluation. In each case the doctor must sort out which is the primary problem and determine the best treatment.

Did You Know?

Horses, like humans and all mammals except the manatee have seven vertebrae in their necks.

The equine spine has over 170 articulations including:

- 30 intravertebral discs
- 64 zygapophyseal joints
- 36 costovertebral joints
- 36 costotransverse joints
- 2 sacroiliac joints
- 1 joint of the dens
- 6-8 intertransverse joints

Following the evaluation, the problem areas are adjusted in order to return the joints to normal motion and to alleviate any muscle spasms and pain. Depending on the problem, often several areas will be adjusted at each session.

Indications that your horse may benefit from Chiropractic Care:

- Loss or decrease in level of performance.
- Problems or difficulties executing desired movements or gaits.
- Refusing, acting cinchy, bucking when mounted.
- Pain or sensitivity over back muscles.
- Injuries from falls or pulling back.
- Abnormal head carriage.
- Inability to collect.
- Muscle imbalance or atrophy.
- Undiagnosed lameness.

How many treatments will my horse need?

The number of treatments depends on many factors and varies widely. The age and condition of the horse, whether the condition is acute or chronic and the severity of the condition all have a major effect on the course of treatment. Most problems that have not become chronic respond to one or two adjustments. Chronic or severe problems take longer to respond and a return to full function may not be possible in some cases. In these, multiple adjustments may be needed to achieve the maximum flexibility possible.

How much does it cost?

The fee for the initial evaluation is based on time, and usually runs between \$85.00 and \$125.00. Follow-up adjustments are less.

If you have any questions, please feel free to consult with Dr. Ferguson about your horse's problem. He can be reached at 826-9001 ext. 27, and at wwf@rveh.com.

2007 New Foal Photo Contest winner!

“John Henry” photo taken by Jenny Grimm. Congratulations!!!

