



# Dawson Creek Veterinary Clinic

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[www.dcvet.ca](http://www.dcvet.ca)

## Veterinary spinal manipulation therapy

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The fundamentals of veterinary chiropractic are the same as in human practice however the animal's structure and anatomy is different which results in different types of adjustments.

Veterinary chiropractic is a therapeutic technique that focuses on restoring normal motion in the spinal column. This helps improve dysfunctions of the neuro-musculoskeletal system in order to decrease pain, restore motion to areas of restriction, improve function, and facilitate the nervous system. Veterinary chiropractic focuses on addressing the body as a whole, in which every vertebra should move easily against the next. When there is decreased and restricted motion from normal we call this a subluxation. Subluxations (stuck vertebrae) can lead to increased muscle tension locally, sensitivity to pressure, limited and painful motions and changes in posture. Change in posture can lead to a change in gait. Muscles and nerves are programmed to have a memory and over time long term subluxations will cause nerve impulses to fire with minimal stimulation resulting in nerves and muscles becoming tight, sensitive and often painful.

Veterinary chiropractors assess the movement in each joint and vertebrae and establish where the restrictions are. The affected joint or vertebrae is brought into 'tension' and a quick, controlled, and specific thrust is applied to a joint in order to restore motion to that segment. Many animals experience immediate improvement after the adjustment via improved mobility, decreased muscle tenderness, and improved nerve function. The adjustment also causes a release of endorphins, which can relieve pain and provide relaxation. After a few treatments many animals appear to enjoy being adjusted.

Animals that benefit from chiropractic treatment following veterinary assessment and treatment include performance horses (maintenance of good muscle function/injury prevention), senior patients with stiffness or arthritis, disc disease in dogs (mild forms), urinary incontinence and post operative surgical cases that have secondary muscle loss or compensation.

A chiropractic appointment involves an initial exam where the entire body, including the cervical vertebrae (neck), TMJ (jaw), thoracic vertebrae, lumbar spine, pelvis and extremities are assessed and treated. A follow up appointment is generally booked at this time as well. If the animal is not regularly adjusted allow the day of treatment (and sometimes the next day) off of regular work. Once treatments begin senior patients, chronic cases and performance animals are often put on a monthly maintenance schedule. The ability to perform a good exam/treatment also means your animal needs to be handle able without sedation.

Please contact the Dawson Creek Veterinary Clinic for further questions or to book a chiropractic appointment for your horse or dog.