



EVEN LITTLE AUSSIES NEED
CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Chiropractic folk law is rich with accounts of chiropractors locating and adjusting subluxations in a diverse range of non-human vertebrates. Peter Rome's collection, research and publication of such Australian anecdotes may be a first for chiropractic.

The following are quotes from an article by Rome and McKibbin published in the December 2011 Chiropractic Journal of Australia.

While some may question the validity and value of anecdotes, this form of evidence has to be regarded as a starting point. Such reservations were refuted by Enkin and Jadad, they note that anecdotal evidence does have a contribution to make. They state that, *"Anecdotes are powerful tools that humans use to make decisions. Despite their power and influence, they are sometimes misused, and sometimes undervalued. Ignoring or under-estimating the role of anecdotal information in health care decisions is likely to hinder communication among decision makers, and to retard their uptake of research evidence. Anecdotal evidence should not be considered a replacement for, but as a complement to formal research evidence. If evidenced-based health care is to meet its potential, the important role of anecdotes must be acknowledged, studied and utilized."*⁷¹

Indeed, Stuebe opined that medically, the experience gained from Level IV evidence in the form of *adverse anecdotes* (i.e. adverse events), strengthened clinical judgement by experience and contributing towards subsequent patient care in a positive way. We would submit that positive anecdotal evidence does likewise, at least as an initial step in compilation of an evidence base.⁷²

The following cases were drafted from reports submitted by various chiropractors.

Case 1. Alsatian - Dysplasia

Anecdotally, we are aware of a particularly intriguing case concerning an 8 year-old male Alsatian dog. This canine was losing the use of its hind legs – a partial paralysis (paresis). The owner was not keen on the previously recommended surgery, and brought the dog to her chiropractor. After adjusting the dog’s sacroiliac joints, the dog suddenly took off and ran a lap of the car park – where it had been adjusted outside the clinic. The dog raced one lap, returned to the chiropractor, and jumped its front paws up onto his shoulders, licked the practitioners face (in what appeared to be a display of appreciation), then took off for another lap. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. Nov 9th 2009.)

Case 2. Collie Cross - Low Back Dysfunction

A six-year-old collie exhibited signs of being ill-at-ease, and was generally stiff in its normal movements - like an old dog. Initially, by ‘chatting’ to it, then with gentle patting, it allowed the chiropractor to conduct a spinal examination by palpation.. The owner had indicated that she thought the dog “had a crook back.”

After explaining the dog’s apparent vertebral problems to the owner, and with their permission, the indicated areas were adjusted. Immediately, the dog was friendlier, less reactive to previously tender areas along its spine, moved with far greater freedom, and began wagging its tail. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. June 17th 2011.)

Case 3 German Shepherd - Dysplasia

At about 4-months-of age, ‘Gee’ climbed out of the family car and just sat - suddenly unable to move.

Subsequently, a veterinarian performed an x-ray examination and concluded that Gee had severe hip dysplasia, and should be ‘put to sleep’.

A second opinion confirmed the vet’s diagnosis and recommendation.

The owner then took Gee to the beach for swimming and carried out daily leg massages.

As Gee was still struggling, she then took him to a chiropractor. The chiropractor carried out a spinal examination and a series of spinal adjustments, together with advice on exercises in the ocean and walking.

Today, Gee is now 4-years-old, has fortnightly chiropractic care , and apart from the very occasional relapse (especially when cold), has resumed a ‘dog’s life’ with normal running and playing. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. June 24th. 2011)

Case 4 Dog - Cross-Breed - Incontinence, Skittish, Falls

Jess was a cross-breed about 8 years old. She had been abused by previous owners, and was quite skittish, even at just the sound of an Activator which was not in contact with her. She suffered dyspnea, bowel and bladder incontinence, would not wag her tail, and would sometimes fall over in trying to stand.

All symptoms diminished considerably following just two spinal adjustments. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. Letter and DVD. 10.6.2011.)

Case 5 Labrador –“Archie” Lethargy, Tail Droop

This 4.5 year-old Labrador was particularly lethargic, would not play, and just lay around all day. In addition, his tail was constantly down. It seemed he could not lift it. Following vertebral adjustments with an Activator, “Archie” appeared happier, would wag his tail, wanted to play, and was generally much more active. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. Letter and DVD. 10.6.2011.)

Case 6 Cat – Poor Demeanour

A cat of unspecified breed and age had been a placid one. Of a morning, it would climb in a bedroom window and sit on its owner’s bed. Inexplicably, it stopped its morning climb, it became intolerant to patting, and had become markedly apathetic.

Following a single spinal adjustment, all its symptoms diminished and its activities returned to normal.⁷³

Case 7. Galah - Vertigo

The owner of a Pink and Grey galah – a species of cockatoo, was lying in his backyard getting some sun, whilst his galah was happily walking around near him. He turned over to lie prone, and in the process rolled on the galah, momentarily squashing him. From then onwards, the galah lost its balance. In trying to walk, it would stagger to one side, and then fall over. It would get up and repeat the process. It could not sit on its perch without falling off. A chiropractor examined the bird and it seemed as if its entire head had slipped laterally - i.e. an occipital slippage. The chiropractor held the bird by the shoulders in one hand, and with the other grasped it's head and applied an adjustment. He then placed the bird on the ground. It squawked, shook itself, and walked away normally The problem never returned. Vagg K. Personal communication. 1st July 2011

Case 8. Cat with Leukopenia

A patient brought her cat to her chiropractor. She had spent in excess of \$3500 on veterinary bills in an effort to save the cat. The diagnosis was one of leukopenia resulting in severe reduction of immune system function. The cat was dying, and apparently nothing could be done to save it. The vets had told the patient that the cat would be dead within the week. On examination a severe atlas subluxation was identified. The cat’s atlas was adjusted, and two days later the vets gave it a clean bill of health. The cat lived to a ripe old age. (Vagg K. Personal communication. 1st July 2011)

Case 9. Grey Nurse Shark – Scoliosis

A chiropractor was asked to look at a three-metre Grey Nurse shark at the then Underwater World in Perth. The shark exhibited a C curve scoliosis. Apparently this is a common problem in juvenile grey nurse sharks in captivity. No one knows the cause. The shark was brought into a holding pool about three metres square and 3/4 of a metre deep. Once in the holding area, it was anaesthetised. The marine biologist held its head whilst the chiropractor held it by the tail with one hand, and applied an adjustive thrust to the apex of the scoliosis with the other hand. After the anaesthetic had worn off, the shark was released back into the main aquarium. This process was repeated about six times. There was a noticeable improvement in the scoliosis after every adjustment. After the sixth adjustment the scoliosis had disappeared. The marine biologist had been gathering data pre and post adjustment, associated with the shark's eating and behavioural habits. Pre adjustment, the shark had gone off its food, ate sporadically, and exhibited antisocial behaviour toward other marine life. Post adjustment, the shark's eating habits had returned to normal and it was exhibiting normal behaviour. A month later the shark was put in a boat, taken out to sea and released overboard. At that time the scoliosis had not returned. (Vagg K. Personal communication. 1st July 2011)

Case 10. Pigeon - "Wing Dysfunction"

A chiropractor was asked if he would look at "Pidge". "Pidge" could not fly after injuring itself by flying into a window.

When Pidge was brought into the clinic, the only test that seemed applicable was the "...can you fly test." In this, Pidge was thrown gently into the air only to have him/her flutter to the ground in a spiral dive. A diagnosis of brachial nerve dysfunction due to lower cervical subluxation was made. It was firmly believed that this injury to the bird was due to the striking angle of impact when it crashed into the window.

The diagnosis of a lower cervical subluxation was made using a Toftness detector. While the patient held Pidge, it was adjusted employing a Toftness style technique with very mild finger pressure. In rechecking, it was found that the subluxation had "cleared", and no other subluxations were present.

It was time to reapply the fly test. Pidge flew straight and level. This outcome would tend to confirm an absence of any placebo effect! (Robb P. Personal communication. 21st June 2011)

Case 11 Saint Bernard - Asthma

Muffin was a Saint Bernard of unknown age. It attended a chiropractor because her owner noted that Muffin's asthma was relieved following its spinal adjustments under chiropractic care. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. June 12th 2011.)

Case 12. Miniature Fox Terrier Post-surgical Moodiness, Lower Back, S/I Dysfunction

'Hollie' was a 11-year-old miniature fox terrier. She ruptured her cruciate ligament, and following surgery, had become unusually quiet. She had uncharacteristically developed a 'moodiness', and also became aggressive towards the owner's other dogs. She was also lame after the surgery because she would not put weight down on her affected hind leg. Prior to a scheduled follow-up to the veterinary surgeon, her lower back and pelvis were adjusted by a chiropractor. Immediately following this procedure, Hollie began behaving like a little puppy again, full of life and enjoyment. In addition, before her adjustment she had trouble hopping into the car, but after the procedure she would spring into the car first, waiting for the family to follow. Hollie continues with symptom-based maintenance care, indicated by a occasional recurrence of nocturnal enuresis. This is readily controlled by these maintenance adjustments. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. June 5th 2011.)

Case 13. Cat

A patient observed that her seven-year-old son was not 'his usual self', and was 'out of sorts'. It was also revealed that their once affectionate 1-year-old cat "Shiraz", had become aggressive and unsociable. The chiropractor wondered if the cat's conduct had influenced her son's behaviour. Following examination and appropriate spinal adjustments, the demeanour of both the cat, and subsequently also the lad's, rapidly returned to their normal contented selves. (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. July 2nd. 2011.) The possibility if a form of symbiosis existed here due to a close relationship of the cat to the seven-year-old.

Case 14 Pomeranian Cross - Post-Surgical Paresis, Cauda Equina, Incontinence, Sacroiliac.

'Basil' is a six year-old Pomeranian Cross. Some four years earlier he had undergone an emergency right-sided hemilaminectomy and discectomy at T12/13. He was left with a great degree of bilateral paresis in the hind quarters, had little to no bladder and bowel control, plus signs of a cauda equina syndrome.⁴ It took four years of regular chiropractic adjustments, with his main problem being the left sacroiliac joint.

He is now continent⁴ in both functions, and has enough muscle control and strength to ascend and descend stairs independently. Basil has had occasional relapses, but responds very quickly following adjustments. (Roppola J. Personal communication. June 21st. 2011.)

Case 15 Horses - Performance and Behaviour

One equestrian veteran of 30 years stated that both she and her horses depend on chiropractic care. She stated that "Chiropractic treatment makes a huge difference to my horses in their performance level, development and in some behavioural issues." (McKibbin MR. Personal communication. June 10th 2011.)

Case 16. Snake - Apparent Lassitude

A zoo owner in Victoria Australia thought that his python seemed to be "unwell". He suspected a 'problem' with one of the snake's 421 vertebra. The keeper's chiropractor was consulted, and after a 'lengthy' examination, an activator adjustment was carried out. (at T 276 !) The snake seemed to respond very rapidly, and resumed its normal movement and 'lifestyle'.²⁶

Case 17. Kangaroo - Cervical, Lumbar, Pelvis Dysfunction, Cataracts

A WIRES (a wildlife rescue organisation) volunteer recovered a joey that had been picked up from the road following an accident. It had been in its mother's pouch, the mother having been fatally struck by a vehicle. The volunteer had spent considerable time, money and effort on this orphaned joey.

The vet who had conducted surgery to pin its pelvis and femur that had been broken in the accident, declined to proceed further with the joey, and suggested that a chiropractor might help.

The joey had lost its appetite and was forming scat (pelletised faeces), was becoming blind with cataracts, was lying persistently on its side, its hind legs were stiff and difficult to flex forward.

An examination using surrogate muscle testing revealed subluxations of the pelvis, as well as lumbar and cervical spines. The testing was found to be remarkably definite on all three regions – especially on a lateral atlas. Adjustments were carried out using an Activator instrument. On rechecking, the findings had cleared.

Over the following days the joey would crawl out of its temporary pouch - a bag, and graze in the backyard. Further adjustments were carried out in an attempt to improve the flexibility of its hind legs. In addition, its sight slowly returned as the cataracts cleared. (O'Dwyer P. Personal communication. June 22nd 2011)

Case 18. Kangaroo - Cervical Subluxation

A small 1.5metre, 3 year-old (approximate) kangaroo had been tethered to a post by a rope. Following a fright, it struggled and injured its neck as the rope became taut. The animal was presented by a farmer who casually tipped the kangaroo out of a hessian sack. It was too lethargic to hop away. In appearance, its head was floppy, and its ears drooped. It also tended to persistently lick its proximal paws, and the tip of its nose was particularly dry. The owner then held the animal's hind legs with its body resting supine. On palpation, it reacted to pressure over the left lamina of C2. This was quite prominent, with the spinous process distinctly rotated to the right. The posterior cervical musculature was hypertonic. A listing of C2 LI (left lamina posterior-inferior) was adjusted using the Diversified technique. The segment adjusted surprisingly easily.

A check-up was carried out on the penned animal a week later. It's head and ears were upright, its nose was moist and it no longer licked its paws. It was remarkably agile in the pen, and was too lively to catch and physically re-check.²³

Case 19. Alpacas – (i) Torticollis, Skin Lesions, (ii) Pelvis

Utilising an Activator on the cervical and dorsal regions, another chiropractor adjusted a young alpaca (a 'cria') which had a 'wry neck', and skin lesions around the eyes. After a single session, all the clinical signs improved. The chiropractor dodged the protective mother's aggressiveness, and just managed not to get kicked. The mother herself had a 'rotated pelvis' that was also adjusted. Both animals responded well, and the baby alpaca's skin lesions around the eyes also cleared after only a few days following the adjustment. (Stephenson R. Personal communication. 21st June 2011)

Case 20. Cat – Personality Disorder

A chiropractor reports adjusting 'Lucinda', her 8-year-old cat a number of times. The cat fell some 3metres as a kitten. Her upper dorsal spine was the primary area of fixations, although ilium, sacrum and cervical were also adjusted at times. The contact to the cat was applied using either finger pressure adjustments, or an Activator. The cat preferred the finger adjustments to the clicking sound of the Activator. Indications for an adjustment were evident when the cat was in a 'foul mood', and basically being 'a naughty terror'. Following her adjustment, she generally sleeps soundly - and is a 'purrfect' cat. (Stephenson R. Personal communication. 21st June 2011)

Case 21. Red Kelpie - Maintenance Care

The chiropractor reported conducting dorsal adjustments and massage on "Bess", a 6-year-old Red Kelpie. She would just flop down and seemed to enjoy the 'special' treatment. (Stephenson R. Personal communication. 21st June 2011)

Case 22. Basset Hound - Lumbar Disc Herniation, Paresis

A distressed lady said her veterinarian had diagnosed a "slipped disc" in her Basset Hound, and it would have to be euthanased.

On appearance the dog's gait appeared to be 'dragging' as in a partial paresis.

Following a chiropractic examination of the dog's spine, mobilisation of the lumbar spine was carried out. Immediately following this procedure, the dog was able to walk around the room. It had improved markedly following the single procedure. (Jones G. Personal communication June 23rd. 2011.)

Case 23. Rat – L6 Subluxation, Bowel Prolapse, Paresis

The owner presented with "Walter" the rat. They provided x-ray films taken previously by a veterinarian. An apparent subluxation was a posterior L6.

Walter also had a prolapsed rectum, and paresis of hind legs and tail. He had had a nasty fall. The posterior L6 was reduced using an Activator.

Immediately following the procedure, Walter's rectum retracted, his tail swept sideways, and his hind legs (which had previously been trailing with the dorsum of the feet on the floor) pulled into a normal sphinx-like posture underneath his body.

Walter also began to resume normal movements and gait. (Anderson-Peacock L. Personal communication. 24th June 2011)

Case 24. Australian Cattle Dog - Constipation

A patient presented with her female canine of some 15 years of age. The dog had been constipated for some time. The chiropractor adjusted C1, and a mid to lower dorsal subluxation. Immediately, the bitch ran out to the yard and could not contain her bowels, dropping some stool on the verandah on the way out to the lawn. (Ierano J. Personal communication June 24th. 2011.)

Case 25. Dog – Pomeranian Subluxating Patella, Sacroiliac Dysfunction

By addressing articular mechanics of the ipsilateral sacroiliac joint and hypertonic musculature, a chiropractor reported successful resolution of a subluxating patella in a Pomeranian. This was compared to the history of the contralateral patella which had previously undergone surgical intervention.⁷⁴

Case 26. Great Dane – Faecal Incontinence, Loss of Mobility

Sultan was a 9-year old Great Dane. Two years earlier he started to lose his playfulness, lost pace, and had difficulty lifting his feet clear of the ground. When his bowels became incontinent and he would soil his bed, his owner considered having him ‘put to sleep’.

Being reluctant to lose big Sultan, the owner sought chiropractic care for him as she had read that this type of condition sometimes has positive outcomes for animals with similar problems. In just a few weeks Sultan was “reliving his youth” and thought he was a pup again. He was able to stroll gracefully and chase and play with other dogs. Sultan has now exceeded his life expectancy. He does however, still has the occasional minor episode of bowel incontinence. (Pyrah E. Personal communication. 7th July, 2nd Sept., 2011)

Case 27 Three -Year-Old - King Charles Cavalier Spaniel.

‘One day Billy was running around happily and the next minute he was in excruciating pain and would not weight bear at all on his hind legs. He was crying even with the slightest movement. It was so awful to see him like that. I carried him to the vet where he underwent an X-ray. The result was a calcified disc in his neck region. The Vet told us that he could only treat his pain and if he did not improve we would have to go down the path of having surgery. He said there was a chance of the disc ‘crumbling’, which in turn would crush major nerves that would result in paresis of Billy’s hind legs. This kind of surgery would cost thousands of dollars.

Billy was vomiting from the side effects of the medication he was on, and his quality of life at this stage was miserable. He then commenced acupuncture for the pain with good results, however his mobility was minimal. All my family have regular adjustments for spinal health, and I told our chiropractor about Billy, although at that stage I had no idea he also adjusted dogs. I carried Billy into the clinic. After his first adjustment I noticed Billy’s mobility had improved greatly. After another 2 adjustments Billy was totally back to normal running everywhere. Billy now joins the family for regular maintenance adjustments which in turn provides him with a good quality of life.’(Cited as received with minor editing.) ‘Billy’ is now 6½ years-old. (Farmer C. Personal communication. July 8th. 2011.)

A common theme with ‘Billy’, a number of the anecdotes submitted, and also noted by Kamen⁴²⁻⁴⁴, was the economic cost saving on pets that had previously been advised to undergo expensive surgery. Yet, those pets reportedly responded rapidly following spinal adjustments. This would be noted in savings of pet discomfort, owner angst, time, and cost.

Case 28. Bovine - Charolais Cow

In the early 1960s patients, a young couple from California, asked me to come out to the property they had leased in the district, to look at a pregnant Charolais cow who did not want to get up. I used a tennis ball and a rubber

mallet on her lumbo-sacral junction, she bellowed, got up and ran away. The payment was to be the first calf she was going to drop, to stay with the herd and thus become the start of my future herd, to be run by the couple.

Unfortunately things did not work out as well. The beef market crashed, they decided to plant a crop of peas, and just as they were ready to be harvested the Murrumbidgee flooded and they lost their crop. They cut their losses short and returned to California where they started working in land development. (Peters R. Personal communication. 2011, August 28th.)

Case 29. Canine - Labrador

During the 1960s I used to visit Leeton on a fortnightly basis. At one such visit one of my regular patients asked me if I would have a look at his Labrador, who seemed to have problems with his left hindquarter. I palpated the hindquarter, found an "ouch" spot and traced it back to the dog's lower back. I adjusted with a toggle-recoil adjustment using a one-finger contact. It was in the days well before the Activator. No immediate change was noted. On the follow-up visit two weeks later the Labrador, bright-eyed and wagging his tail, came in to pay his account, dropping the first duck he had retrieved since being adjusted into my hands. This was worth much more to me than any financial reward could ever be because some 50 years later that image is still in my memory. (Peters R. Personal communication. 2011, August 28th.)

Case 30. Canine - Newfoundland

Kya is a large 4-year-old Newfoundland dog, a breed which can weigh over 90kg. She began limping and often had difficulty weight-bearing on her right hind leg. This became more troublesome in walking long distances. Upon presentation to her owner's chiropractor, examination revealed right hip pain as well as tender regions along her whole spine.

Following a series of adjustments, she gradually began to walk without limping and eagerly lengthened her morning walks. She currently returns for symptomatic care and is soon off running again.

The owner was convinced that without chiropractic care, Kya would have been "crippled" and *put down*, as her condition was deteriorating. (Scorer F. Personal communication. 2011, July 16th, 24th.)

Case 31. Blue Tongue Lizards.

An animal chiropractor working in a veterinary practice had occasion to adjust a number of Blue Tongue Lizards. It seems that the practice saw a number of these lizards that had been attacked by a particular family dog and been vigorously shaken, leading to spinal injury. Fauna rescuers brought other Blue Tongues in to be cared for. The chiropractor observed that the lizards seemed to do better with chiropractic treatment. (Condon M. Personal communication. 2011, Aug 8th.)

Case 32. Horse

A chiropractor was asked to examine a horse which for some time had been "...standing in (its) stall paying no attention to anyone or anything. The animal's head was hanging at an angle, not straight up and down like the other

horse's heads." The chiropractor "...stood on the side so that the horse's nose was pointing away from him and took the animal's nose and mouth area in that hand. He placed his other hand against what must have been the atlas/axis area and held it firm and pulled the lower part of the head toward him." He noted that cavitation occurred with the adjustment. "When they came back through the barn an hour or so later, the horse was eating and seemed to be normal and continued to make a complete recovery."⁷⁵

Case 33. Miniature Schnauzer – 13-year-old.

The most complex case of the day was Maggie, a 13-year-old miniature schnauzer with severely trembling hind legs.

The vet has "given her shots and shots and he talked about surgery, but the surgery would be hard on her," says her owner...a teacher, "I even bought her a little wheelchair."

The chiropractic veterinarian believes the problem lies in brain damage, and ties a handkerchief over the dog's eyes to see if the lack of vision changes her gait. It doesn't – and that helps identify the part of the brain involved.

After he does an adjustment on her, she perks up, trotting quickly, if unsteadily, along the steps in the classroom.

"She bolted off," said the dog's owner.⁷⁶

Case 34. Echidna (Spiny Anteater)

A patient presented a chiropractor with an injured baby Echidna. It had fallen from a box and had landed on its head. It had a torticollis. The tongue deviated to the right. and hung from the right side of the mouth. In human diagnosis, a stroke would be suspected.

Following an examination, the monotreme was given an upper cervical adjustment using an Activator. The patient was given three adjustments three days apart. Twelve days after the initial adjustment, the Echidna was asymptomatic. (Irvine J. Personal communication August 26th 2011.)

Case 35: Wallaby

A Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service (W.I.R.E.S) volunteer presented with a juvenile wallaby which had difficulty maintaining an upright posture. Its mother had been struck and killed by a car. The juvenile had obviously been injured when the mother was killed. Palpation of the animal's spine and extremities revealed an upper cervical fixation and tenderness in the lumbar spine.

The animal was treated over a period of two weeks using the Activator technique and manual mobilisation. It regained normal gait and showed no signs of neurological deficit. (Irvine J. Personal communication August 26th 2011.)

Case 36: Target - Kelpie

Target is a kelpie cattle dog cross aged 5 years. Target was shot in the head and left on the roadside to die. He was rescued by a passer by and taken to an animal shelter. He was nursed back to health and adopted by a very caring

lady. Target started having seizures and at one time was having up to ten seizures per day. On the recommendation of a local vet, the owner presented seeking chiropractic care for Target.

Target continues to have regular chiropractic care and at the time of writing it is six weeks since he had a seizure. (Irvine J. Personal communication August 26th 2011.)

Case 37. Thoroughbred Racehorse (“Fields of Omagh”)

A chiropractor was asked to check out a top thoroughbred racehorse called Fields of Omagh. He was informed that the horse had injured itself (unspecified) resulting in back and leg soreness. Examination confirmed this as well as sciatic nerve involvement that affected its gait. It was due to race two weeks later. It did run, and won the race. A few weeks after that it won the Group 1 race – the Cox Plate.⁷⁷

The authors are aware that the ‘reconditioning’ of horses is not a unique circumstance with equine chiropractors.^{42,78} The report on this case provides a concise but general outline of what could be regarded as typical in this situation.

Case 38. Canine - Weimaraner

I was treating a young English medical doctor who happened to mention that she would have to have her dog *put down* as it was paralysed in the back legs and could not walk. She asked me if I could help her as she was very attached to the animal which was a 2-year-old Weimaraner.

The dog had been examined by a veterinarian, who also conducted a radiological study. The veterinarian’s diagnosis of the dog was that of a ruptured disc, and that the dog would have to be put down.

The doctor brought her dog over to my home. An examination involving palpation of the lumbar spine revealed severe tenderness and muscle spasm of that region. The x-rays films were unremarkable. However, in analysing the films from a neuromuscular-mechanical aspect, I noted that L3 spinous was rotated to the right side, and the disc was bulging due to the wedging of the vertebral body on the opposite side. I explained this to the dog’s owner and she was happy for me to treat her pet.

To quieten the dog the owner gave it a injection of Valium, and we waited for it to take effect.

The dog was placed on her right side, and an L3 adjustment was carried out resulting in a reasonably audible cavitation.

I saw the dog again the next day and it ran to meet me. (Holdway KB. Personal communication. August 29th 2011.)

It can be noted that the health management of animals under chiropractic care is not necessarily limited to spinal adjustments. It can also involve manipulation of the extremity joints, as well as employing some of the more natural therapies such as acupuncture. It can also be in collaboration and cooperation with the more traditional veterinarians.^{37,77}