

*Now offered at Leininger Veterinary Services – Chirocare
by Dr. Leininger, Certified Veterinary Chiropractitioner*

Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation VOM™:

A non-surgical approach to lameness and spinal disease as well as Organ Function Diseases.

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 (called subluxations) and re-establishes neuronal communication, thus inducing healing.

VOM is one of the most simple, effective and safe methods of healing available in veterinary care today. For the VOM practitioner it is an exquisitely objective, fast and easy to apply technology that takes a minimum of time to master and whose scope of application appears yet to be fully appreciated.

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 in that it restores 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 is a hybrid (between Veterinary and Chiropractic) that benefits from the positive aspects of both and is thus more effective than either by themselves.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) does not recognize VOM or the alternative manual adjustment technique taught by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA). However, 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.

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C. History, Origination and Development of VOM

VOM was developed by William. L. Inman BS, BS, DVM, CVCP, in Seattle WA, and has been used in his clinical practice since July of 1982. Dr. Inman is an accomplished veterinary surgeon who still consults in veterinary surgery. However, his frustration with ineffective surgical solutions to common veterinary medical problems caused him to search for more effective, less invasive techniques.

VOM was developed in a vacuum, meaning it was developed with a trial and error approach in a clinical setting without input from other sources. Dr. Inman has been the sole source of the VOM Technology, which is the culmination of information gleaned from over 50,000 patients treated for clinical disease.

Dr. Inman has taught in excess of 4700 practitioners throughout the US in a seminar series that is presented in four modules. Unlike AVCA certification and instruction that takes 150 hours and five modules to complete, a veterinary chiropractitioner (VCP) can adequately apply VOM after a “VOM Small Animal Module One” seminar attended in their home town in a weekend. This unfortunately generates some criticism from AVCA graduates whose excellent and extensive training is somewhat undercut by VOM’s simplicity and accuracy.

D. 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”, “kinda there”, or “almost there” adding a factor of subjectivity to interpretation. VOM is a precisely objective science.

E. Chiropractic “Listings” vs. VOM™ “Pathological Reads”

All chiropractic techniques (veterinary and human) rely on the chiropractic “listing” to determine the presence of a subluxation.

Through manual palpation a misplaced bone prominence or a taut and tender muscle may be discovered by a competent veterinary chiropractor whose patient is cooperative and relaxed.

This is a listing, an anatomical subluxation sign, and almost always is indicative of a neuronal subluxation syndrome.

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Unfortunately only **40%** of all neuronal subluxations produce palpable anatomical subluxation signs. This means over half of all the animal's subluxations will be overlooked if anatomical listings are used as a means to discover them.

The good news is that **all** neuronal subluxations produce “pathological reads”, and all these reads are obvious and easy to discover and reduce.

The goal of an adjustment in an animal is all the vertebral subluxations in that animal are reduced. Subluxation reduction based on anatomical listings will get approximately half of the total neurological subluxations present in the animal.

Subluxation reduction based on pathological reads will get them all, and will verify they have been reduced. Fast, easy, effective.

F. 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 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.

G. Is VOM an Animal Version of Activator Methods, a Human Chiropractic Technology Using the Hand-held Device?

No.

Activator Methods developed by Arlan Fuhr D.C. uses the spinal accelerometer and relies exclusively on listings demonstrated by leg length checks that are anatomical subluxation signs.

H. What Does the Hand-held Device Do to My Pet?

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

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confirm that the neuronal subluxation is reduced even if it is not associated with an anatomical listing.

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 that are turned off, on. It cannot flip a switch off.

I. Can the Device and VOM Harm My Pet?

No No 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 excessive motion that can potentially injure the animal with the torsion, twisting, mass movement etc. inherent in manual adjusting techniques.

The VOM 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 50,000 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)

J. 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. This demonstrates the need for patient relaxation and cooperation and is the reason that excellent technique is imperative for success using manual adjusting.

Conversely the device fires at a rate of 2-4 milliseconds which is 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.

In my experience only 50% of domestic animals will completely cooperate with manual chiropractic adjustments.

All of them can be adjusted using the VOM Technology.

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K. Why VOM is so Successful

Because it locates **all** the neuronal subluxations present in the animal regardless of whether clinical listings are present and reduces them and confirms their reduction. Inherent in the VOM Technology is a built-in rescheduling protocol that inserts the patient on a self-regulating readjustment interval. Again, an easy, objective science.

L. How Can VOM Be That Easy?

Why not? Who says that a healing modality has to be complicated, difficult and expensive? Who says it should take hundreds of hours to learn and perfect?

A technique that goes to the root of the problem, a simple technique that relies on the animals innate ability to heal itself, one that re-establishes communication with the pet's ability to heal itself, will be easy, powerful and effective.

M. 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.

Many of the AVCA-trained veterinary chiropractors that have taken the VOM Seminar will chose to use the device to locate all the subluxations and then proceed to manually adjust the horse using the AVCA techniques.

N. What Will Happen to My Pet?

1. The Veterinary Chiropractitioner will do a “diagnostic pass” which entails him/her running the device down the pet’s spine, searching 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. Many of the reads may be reduced at this point.
6. Myofascial release will then be performed with the use of a Vetro-Stime unit. Laser acupuncture will then be done on the “set” points of the body – to set in the adjustment to the body.

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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 readjustments will 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.

O. 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 CVCP may have treated cases who haven't walked for weeks, given up for dead, with one adjustment thrust and 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, you do not know until you try.

P. Why do I Have to Come Back?

The body has gotten used to functioning in a state out of communication and the nervous system has thrown up a nerve adaptation that allows some marginal level of function. The body develops a pseudo-memory of how it has “adapted”.

When the body is re-introduced to functioning correctly, that system wins out for a stretch of time until the nagging pseudo-memory of the neuronal adaptation re-expresses itself on the body again and the body slips “out of adjustment”.

Systematic readjustment on a succinct schedule then finally wins out over the pseudo-adaptive memory and further adjustments are not necessary.

Q. Treatment Failures

Treatment failures fall into two categories:

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

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R. How to Find/Choose a VOM Practitioner/Get more information.

A qualified VOM Practitioner or a Certified Veterinary Chiropractitioner (CVCP) can be located by contacting:

- Thomas I. Leininger, VMD, CVCP 480-695-3027
- Animal Chiropractic Seminars Inc. 800-742-8433
- Wm. L. Inman BS, DVM, CVCP 800-527-9995 ext11
- AVCA (may not recommend VOM over manual adjustment) 309-523-3995
- American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association Directory <http://www.altvetmed.com/ahvmadir> look for CR= Chiropractic
- Investigation of acupuncture, acupressure and classic manual chiropractic care via other sources may also assist in an informed decision.

S. What Other Techniques are performed along with VOM?

The VOM technique is often followed by **Myofascial Release**. This technique compliments and enhances VOM by immediately relieving the increased muscle and fascial tension relieving the resulting muscle spasms. This decreased muscle spasm gives the animal pain reduction and decreases the re-subluxation due to the patient “guarding its motion” thereby accelerating the healing of the animal.

The device used for VOM can be used in a similar fashion to treat **Somato-Visceral Diseases**, which are diseases not pertaining to the musculo-skeletal system, but instead pertaining to organs. This is looking at the balance of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems that run all of the organ-related systems in the body. These two systems complement each other to alter the blood flow and nervous stimulation to all areas of the body.

Specifically, when the sympathetic system is hyper stimulated the parasympathetic system is depressed. This results in a decrease in blood flow and nervous stimulation to many organs, which results in a decrease in their function.

This technique uses sites on the body similar to acupuncture sites as well as other sites that stimulate the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems to bring them back into balance.

T. What Can VOM Treat?

Routinely treated orthopedic-related conditions:

1. Acute and non-acute lameness
2. Progressive lameness
3. Hip Dysplasia-like syndromes

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4. IV disc disease
5. Progressive myelopathies, (down in the rears dogs)
6. Urinary and fecal incontinence
7. Unilateral lameness
8. Wobbler's Disease
9. Diseases of the knee
10. Performance problems
11. Behavioral (pain-related) problems
12. Agility dysfunction
13. Endocrine disease and many more

Common Somato-Visceral Disease States are:

1. Keratitis Conjunctivitis Sicca or Dry Eye
2. Pituitary Directed Adenomas, Cushing's Disease
3. Diabetes Insipitus
4. Facial Nerve Paralysis
5. Chronic Otitis Externa, Media, and Interna
6. Sialoadenitis
7. Pneumonia and Pneumonitis
8. Hepatic Lipidosis, Fatty Liver
9. Nephrosis or Nephritis
10. Colitis
11. Hyper-Motile Gut Syndrome
12. Hypo-Motile Gut Syndrome
13. Leaky Gut Syndrome
14. Dietary Allergy
15. Chylothorax
16. Pre-hepatic and Hepatic Jaundice
17. Acute Pancreatitis
18. Pancreatic Insufficiency
19. Immune-Mediated Disease such as Auto-Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia and Pemphigus
20. Chronic Interstitial Nephritis
21. Malabsorption Syndromes
22. Lymphocytic and Plasmacytic Enteropathies
23. Poor Sperm Count
24. Prostatitis
25. Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
26. Urinary Incontinence
27. Loss of Anal Sphincter Tonus
28. Chronic Pyorrhea in the Dog and Cat
29. Diabetes Mellitus in the Dog and Cat
30. Epilepsy in the Dog
31. Salivary Cysts in the Dog

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32. Hypothyroidism in the Dog
33. Congestive Heart Failure in the Dog
34. Atrial Fibrillation and Tachycardia in the Horse and the Dog
35. Excessive Barking in the Dog
36. Esophageal Achalasia in the Dog
37. Bronchial Asthma in the Dog
38. Osteo-Chondritis Dissicans (OCD) of the Dog Shoulder
39. Peri-rectal Fistula in the Dog
40. Perianal Adenomas in the Dog
41. Paraphimosis in the Dog
42. Megacolon in the Dog
43. Duodenal Ulcers in the Dog
44. Ununited Anconeal, Coracoid and Coronoid processes of the Dog Elbow
45. Atopic Dermatitis in the Dog
46. Pylorospasm in the Dog
47. Megaesophagus in the Dog
48. Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome in the Cat
49. Asthma in the Cat
50. Lower Urinary Tract Disease and FUS in the Cat
51. Hyperthyroidism in the Cat
52. Hairball Enteritis in the Cat
53. Predisposition to the Upper Respiratory Infection in the Cat
54. Cardiomyopathy in the Cat