

Best in Show

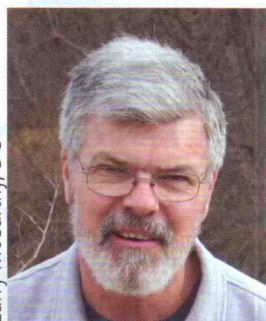
How chiropractic is helping animal athletes



Photos by Dr. Larry McCarthy

Vibe, a yellow Labrador Retriever, executes a competition jump.

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Larry McCarthy, DC

Rocky was having trouble with his starts, as he competed internationally last year. Briar, a big fellow, could turn left quickly without any problem, but when he tried to cut right, something didn't feel right so he would have to slow down and be more deliberate in his actions. Kelly would negotiate the hurdles just fine, in the early stages of her event, but by the end she was knocking hurdles over with her trailing leg. Dennis, an ex-athlete, now looking older than he actually is, simply had trouble negotiating around his home.

Besides the fact that chiropractic treatment helped get them back on the field of play in record time, and continues to help them maintain their athletic abilities, what do these athletes have in common?

They're dogs!

ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC

If you think animal chiropractic is something new, consider that, in 1944, B.J. Palmer wrote, "In the early days of chiropractic, we maintained a veterinarian hospital where we adjusted the vertebral subluxations of sick cows, horses, cats, dogs"

Modern animal chiropractic began in the State of New Jersey in the early 1980s when a group calling itself Options for Animals began working on dogs. The project was short-lived, as legal action was launched against one of the chiropractors by veterinarians in the state. The organization was later revived when a veterinarian by the name of Dr. Sharon Willoughby enrolled and graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic. Soon after that, "Options" opened a school for animal chiropractic. There are now three schools in the United States, one in Canada and one in Europe. The courses are open to any qualified chiropractor or veterinarian. In most jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S.,

