



## Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation (VOM)

### **Background:**

Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation is a healing technology that locates areas of the nervous system that have fallen out of communication, and re-establishes neuronal function. VOM has some similarities to chiropractic modalities by restoring function through reduction of subluxations, and uses a hand held device similar to that used in the human chiropractic technique called Activator Methods.

### **VOM vs. Chiropractic:**

VOM is not animal chiropractic care, and should not be confused with the human Activator Methods developed by Arlan Fuhr D.C., or manual chiropractic adjusting taught by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA). All chiropractic techniques (both veterinary and human) rely on "listings", or the manual palpation of a misplaced bony prominence or tight/tender muscle. Listings are an anatomical subluxation sign, and are almost always indicative of neuronal subluxation syndrome. However, only 40% of all neuronal subluxations produce palpable anatomical subluxation signs. This means over half of all the subluxations will be overlooked if anatomical listings are the only method used to discover them.

### **How VOM works:**

All chiropractic-type modalities have one thing in common in that they all reduce the vertebral subluxation complex by providing motion or force to the affected joint. Putting motion into a joint that is associated with a neuronal subluxation sign (or pathologic read) reduces the subluxation. VOM delivers this force through a hand-held device that looks like a spring-loaded doorstop, called a spinal accelerometer. The accelerometer provides very accurate and precise motion to specific areas of the pet's spine. If a subluxation is present, it can detect and reduce it quickly without pain or injury, and confirm that the neuronal subluxation is reduced even if it is not associated with an anatomical listing.

### **What will happen to my pet during VOM treatments?**

- The Veterinary Chiropractor will do a "diagnostic pass" which entails running the accelerometer along the pet's spine in search of pathologic reads which indicate subluxations. Any subluxations found will be recorded.
- If significant subluxations are found and they correspond to the clinical disease presented, then a course of VOM treatment will be recommended.
- Other procedures may be recommended such as blood work, x-rays, and other diagnostic tests.
- A second VOM pass will be made called a therapeutic pass, and any changes to the reading pattern will be noted. Your pet may or may not already show signs of improvement.
- A third VOM pass will be made to evaluate the subluxation reductions. Most, if not all reads may be reduced at this point.
- Depending on the nature of the case, your pet may be sent home or kept overnight for observation by the clinician.
- An appointment to return for readjustment will be made upon release. Post adjustment instructions will be given as to activity level and any potential discomfort that may be experienced.
- Depending on the clinician and the nature of the case, some medicines may be dispensed.
- A series of 3-5 readjustments will be needed to reach a point where chronic subluxations are reduced and no reads are found.
- Maintenance checks are recommended every 4-6 months to monitor for reoccurrence of subluxations.