

Bella, the Update: 9 year old canine with lumbar disc syndrome

Joseph Ierano

Abstract: On initial presentation a small dog with a veterinarian diagnosis of lumbar disc syndrome following an MVA which injured her head and neck was found by the Chiropractor to have upper cervical involvement.

The human care protocols of AO were applied to correct upper cervical subluxation and the dog, Bella, showed immediate signs of improvement.

Twelve months later she is fully recovered and with normal mobility and agility for her age. I maintain her recovery has followed the application of basic chiropractic principles to identify and correct subluxation, in this case about Bella's upper cervical spine

Indexing Terms: Animal, chiropractic, upper cervical.

About this case

About one year ago, I made a house-call to the owner of a nine year old Shih Tzu mixed breed dog who reported that the animal (Bella) woke with paralysis of the hind legs.

Bella, a family pet dog, was in a parlous condition of lower-body paralysis causing lameness with the inability to walk. Her case has been documented in these pages and is indexed in the literature of chiropractic. (1)

The owner at that time had consulted the family veterinarian who on examination diagnosed a disc injury causing neural entrapment and paralysis. Four months prior Bella had suffered a moderate impact from a car at low speed in a driveway. The impact was to the face and the dog was taken for assessment and care to the family's veterinarian. This is a clue as to why an upper cervical subluxation may have been present and etiological.

Proposed treatment was 'time' (the equivalent of no treatment) or surgery costing an estimated \$10,000. Or a last resort was to end suffering permanently through humane euthanasia.



... the beauty of treating animals is the complete removal of any placebo effect. The report shows the improvements which can be attained by applying standard human protocols to animals with serious presentations ...'



On my arrival Bella was sat in a corner and remained motionless until after the treatment (Figure 1).

She was unable to walk on all fours, demonstrated a marked weakness in instability in the hind-quarters. This is shown as Video 1 (click to view).

Initial presentation

Bella was examined while being held by a friend. Physical examination by palpation identified spinal restrictions and articular turgidity at C1 level which I considered to represent fixation with the occiput on the right. It is well documented in Atlas Orthogonal Technique programs as noted in my original report. (1)

Palpation also revealed thoracolumbar fixation and dystonia. The level was proposed to be T12 to upper lumbar, as radiographs were unavailable.

Initial treatment

With regard to to earlier incident with the motor vehicle, AO protocols using Activator™ were applied to found subluxations. I determined by LOD by palpation and movement assessment and there was no need for an X-ray

Video 1 was taken before care was provided on her initial assessment in January 2022.

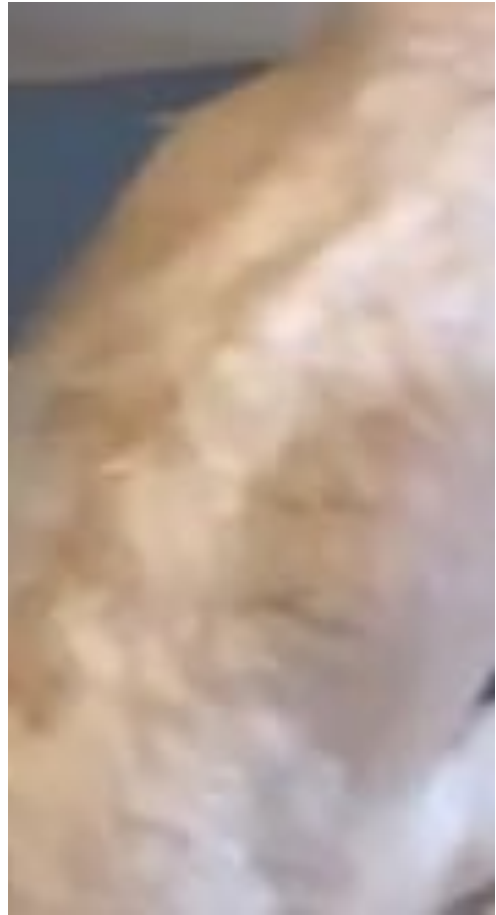
On Bella's most recent presentation

This month (March 2023) I again made a House Call on request to provide a check-up of Bella.

Video 2 (tap or click to view) shows her current agility and full function;

Video 2: Bella, 12 months post care

Video 1: Bella, initial presentation



Discussion

One year after initial presentation and with only her initial treatment, Bella presents as a normal-for-age (10y) small canine with normal mobility.

The cynic will say this represents the first response predicted by the vet, namely natural healing over time.

However I argue that Bella's current state is a direct outcome of the upper cervical Chiropractic adjustment delivered at the time of initial consultation.

The main reason for my claim is Bella's immediate response following the adjustment. She became animated and was able to move with far less restriction than before the adjustment. Her family reported rapid improvement to normal over a few days, whereas natural healing, should it have been possible given my findings of a notable upper cervical subluxation with turgidity, tenderness and restriction of movement, would be expected to take weeks if not months.

The two most important observations are that dogs are immune to placebo effects, and that the principles of AO Technique are transferrable to animals, in this case a small canine.

I addressed '*what we know*' about the canine response to Chiropractic care in my original report. (1)

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About the chiropractor

Dr Ierano is a 1997 graduate of Palmer Davenport and is a certified instructor in Atlas Orthogonal Technique, via the Sweat Foundation in Atlanta, USA. He has taught upper cervical specific in Australia since 2000. He now practices in suburban Sydney from two clinics. This report is published with the informed consent of the patient's owners.