EQUINE VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE & CHIROPRACTIC
WHAT, WHEN & WHO?

Ed Boldt, Jr., DVM
Performance Horse Complementary Medicine Svc
Fort Collins, CO
Complementary

NOT ALTERNATIVE
What Are Acupuncture & Chiropractic?

• Acupuncture –
  – Insertion of needles at predetermined sites
  – Interaction between nervous, endocrine and immune system
  – Trigger Points
What Are Acupuncture & Chiropractic?

• Chiropractic –
  – Joint dysfunction affecting neurological balance seen in healthy animal
  – Motor unit
  – Controlled forces applied to specific areas to induce changes in joint
  – Short lever
Signs/Symptoms

• Acupuncture – pain or reactivity on palpation of acupuncture or trigger points
  – Sensitivity
  – Hot
  – Cold
  – Firm
  – Soft
Signs/Symptoms

- **Chiropractic** – various signs
  - Abnormal posture
  - Saddle issues
  - Unusual gait
  - Inability to engage
  - Inability to round
  - Inability to bend
Acupuncture Techniques

• Dry needling
  – Human or veterinary acupuncture needles
  – Hypodermic needles
Acupuncture Techniques

• Aquapuncture
  – Vitamin $B_{12}$
  – Sterile Saline
  – Other Substances
Acupuncture Techniques

• Electroacupuncture
  – Various units
Acupuncture Techniques

- Moxibustion
  - *Artemisia vulgaris* - “Mugwort”
  - Direct / Indirect
Acupuncture Techniques

- Cold Laser – Class III or IV
- Infra-red Stimulator
Acupuncture Techniques

• Implants
  – Gold beads
  – Gold wire
  – Suture material
  – Skin Staples
Acupuncture and Chiropractic Exam
Acupuncture and Chiropractic Exam

- Event / Use
- History
- Walk/Trot
Acupuncture and Chiropractic Exam

- Palpate Acupuncture Points
- Palpate for Trigger Points
- Motion Palpation
Acupuncture Point Reactivity
Diagnostic Aid

• Reactivity at certain acupuncture points in combination

• All points must be reactive
Common Equine Problems:
When Could Use of Acupuncture and Chiropractic Be Helpful
Musculoskeletal Problems

- Caudal Heel Pain / Navicular
- Laminitis
- Arthritis
- Stifle
- Tendinitis / Desmitis
Musculoskeletal Problems

- Thoracolumbar pain
- Lumbosacral / Sacropelvic Issues
- Cervical / Atlantooccipital
- Temporomandibular Joint
Neurological Problems

- Wobbler Syndrome
- Facial Paralysis
- Headshaking / Trigeminal Neuralgia
- Other Nerve Paralysis
- Spinal Cord Trauma
Respiratory Problems

- Roarer (Left Laryngeal Hemiplegia)
- Heaves / COPD
- Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage
GI Problems

- Colic – San Jiang
- Post-op Ileus
- Gastric Ulcers
- Inappetance
Ophthalmic Problems

- Recurrent Uveitis
- Conjunctivitis
- Non-responsive Corneal Ulcers
Dermatological Problems
Behavior Problems
Saddle Fit Issues
WHO?

- Should seek a Veterinarian trained in acupuncture and chiropractic
- IVAS and AVCA