

Chiropractic

Chiropractic treatment is based on the concept that pain and many other physical disorders are caused, at least in part, by misalignment of the spine. Chiropractors believe that when spinal vertebrae are properly aligned, impulses from the brain can travel freely through the spinal cord to the body's organ systems, maintaining their healthy function. When there is misalignment, the flow of these impulses is disrupted, leading to pain and other physical ailments. By returning the spine's alignment to its normal state, the nervous system can again function properly and the body can heal itself.

Older bunnies and those requiring frequent handling are likely to benefit from chiropractic treatments. When you look straight at your bunny (not from an angle), carefully observe whether one eye seems higher than the other or one eye seems to bulge more than the other. Both of these are indications that your bunny may benefit from chiropractic treatment.

Because of a rabbit's fragile bone structure, it is especially important that your veterinary chiropractor have experience with rabbits or at least recognize how easily rabbits can be injured by improper handling.

Chiropractic treatment begins with a thorough examination of the rabbit to identify spinal misalignments. Adjustments may include one or more of the following techniques:

- Gentle manipulation to restore proper alignment
- Manipulation of the vertebra with a hand-held, rubber-tipped instrument
- Doctor-assisted stretches
- Gentle massage

Your doctor may show you how to perform the stretches and massages and instruct you to do this at home between treatments. Herbs may also be prescribed to help prolong the effects of the chiropractic adjustments.



Murray received regular chiropractic and acupuncture treatments to help manage chronic tooth and GI problems. (Photo by Kathy Smith)