

Spinal problems are not unique to humans. Any animal with a spine can suffer back injuries and develop disc and arthritic conditions. Veterinarians offer similar treatment options as their medical counterparts. For spine conditions, pain medication and muscle relaxers are often tried initially. If those don't help, then surgery may be recommended. Most medical doctors and veterinarians have little or no training in adjusting misaligned spinal bones.

In the state of Georgia, there is no such thing as animal chiropractic, but that is more of a legal issue than a practical one. The law in Georgia states that chiropractic is for the treatment of the human spine, so that leaves out animals. That doesn't mean that an animal cannot have its spine adjusted, however. It just means you can't call it chiropractic.

Now I don't regularly provide care for animals, but over the years I have had vets refer animals to me and I have had patients occasionally bring their pet in for me to look at. Recently I have been helping a dachshund named Yoda. His owner is a patient who loves to go on long hikes with his little buddy, but recently Yoda became lame in one of his front legs. His vet suggested various tests to determine the cause and probably surgery as it was likely a herniated disc in the lower neck of the dog.

I began adjusting him and he began to show improvement rapidly. He came in today and for the first time in months, on his hike this past weekend, Yoda was out in front once again. If you have a pet that is suffering from a spinal problem, talk to your vet about having the spine adjusted. It may make a world of difference .