



## Professional Osteopaths Caring and Maintaining Your Horses Back Health

### **WeaverHouse Case Study - Oakham Vets 2011**

The WeaverHouse Equine team were referred a case from Oakham vets in Leicestershire. A top event horse suddenly stopped going forward and napping at jumps when on the right rein with obvious reluctance in flexing his neck to the right, although no forelimb lameness was noted.

The owner and rider of the horse decided to have the animal assessed by the vet, who had x-rayed the neck which revealed nothing abnormal. It's mouth and teeth were checked, which may have been attributable for the neck flexion reluctance to the right, again this was inconclusive. The horse was booked in for manipulation under anaesthetic to the neck, but at the last moment, the owner was keen to pursue a more holistic and less invasive form of treatment with the osteopaths.

A static examination did reveal limited range and quality of movement in lateral flexion of the neck to the right, indicating a 'cricked neck' – there was more extreme spinal sensitivity in the back just behind the saddle area/lower ribs on the right, with muscle spasm around this area inserting forwards into the back of the right shoulder.

Following assessments on the lunge, trotting up on the hard ground and a ten meter circle, the primary problem was found to be at the dorso-lumbar junction on the right, and not the neck. The old osteopathic principle of 'structure governs function' showed the area of dysfunction was distant from the presenting problem in the neck.

Immediate improvement was seen post treatment and neck mobility was restored immediately, leaving both owner, rider and practitioners with smiles on their faces.

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