

Isabelle Lussot

Lameness or musculo-skeletal asymmetry : an integrative medicine approach

Horse's muscular asymmetry or lameness: an integrative medicine approach

A horse consultation conducted by a veterinarian practicing osteopathy, involves a very thorough clinical examination. The osteopathic palpation starts from the nose to the tail. By repeating this examination over and over again, the practitioner can, with a bit of experience, be thorough but reasonably rapid. Mobilising key joints allows a fine understanding of the horse locomotion, which can then be discussed with the rider or the trainer. A dynamic inspection is important to examine how the horse deals with its various dysfunctions. Some localised osteopathic dysfunctions can be linked to various injuries and the practitioner can assess the healing process and help with the horse rehabilitation. Herbal medicines used locally or internally can be part of the treatment, together with acupuncture. This holistic approach should be part of any horse's health follow up, in these times where animal welfare should be at the centre of any horse professional preoccupation.