

Clinical Case

“Tina”

11-year old mare – Grand Prix Jumper

Kissing Spine

17 FES Treatments on top line

8 Movement Evaluations

until sound for jumping competitions

SUMMARY: 11/13/02 mare was presented as Grade 4/5 hind limb lameness. In hand at the walk, the mare drug both hind toes and was uncoordinated when turning in small circles. She previously had a successful career as a grand prix jumper. No specific injury was noted, just a progressive decline in performance over the past year.

Past history included, 8/7/01 spinal x-rays confirming kissing spine in the posterior thoracic vertebrae. Spinal injections were given at the time of the x-rays. In subsequent months, chiropractic and acupuncture treatments were given. No improvement in performance was noted.

On 11/13/02 and examination was performed and FES treatments were started. The mare was ridden after two treatments and the owner noted improvements in the stride length and in the willingness of the mare to move forward. A rehabilitation protocol of specific exercises was developed to assist in strengthening and/or stretching specific muscles and the associated tendons and ligaments.

After 7 treatments, the mare was cantering willingly under saddle and returning to light jumping work of fences under 2'. A total of 17 treatments were given over a period of 5 months. After 5 months of treatments, the mare returned to Grand Prix competition. She was retired 2 years later without any further lameness issues.

2001

8/7

Radiographs of kissing spine





2002

11/13 Examination

Twisted in sacrum, muscle loss in loins and withers

Grade 4/5 lameness

Walking, dragging both hind toes

Trotting, extremely uneven, showing stiffness in all 4 legs

FES treatment

L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)

11/14 FES treatment

L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)

11/15 FES treatment

L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)

Movement Evaluation

“dropping” back during mounting

very stiff to left, hips twisted left when tracking both directions,

work every other day only at trot on specific exercises

- 11/27 Movement Evaluation
hip alignment more symmetrical
- 11/28 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
- 11/29 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
- 11/30 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
Movement Evaluation
much straighter, good flexion in loins in both directions
- 12/1 Movement Evaluation
excellent canter work, well balanced and symmetrical
- 2003
- 1/5 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
Movement Evaluation
right loin tighter than left, still hollow in withers
- 1/5 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
- 1/6 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
- 1/7 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
- 3/13 FES treatment
L2 – S4 (loins to mid gluteals)
- 3/14 FES treatment
L2 – S4 (loins to mid gluteals)
Movement Evaluation
will not step left, tight again in left loins
- 3/15 FES treatment
T13-L4 (behind withers)

- 3/16 FES treatment
T13-L4 (behind withers)
Movement Evaluation
supple shoulders to improve straightness
- 3/17 FES treatment
T15 – S1 (mid back to loins)
- 4/24 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
- 4/25 FES treatment
L4 - S2 (loins to mid gluteals)
Movement Evaluation
excellent suppleness to both sides at all three gaits, during flying changes
and during lateral movements
- 5/1 Competition in Grand Prix Jumping
FES Treatments continued every 8 to 12 weeks on a prophylactic basis