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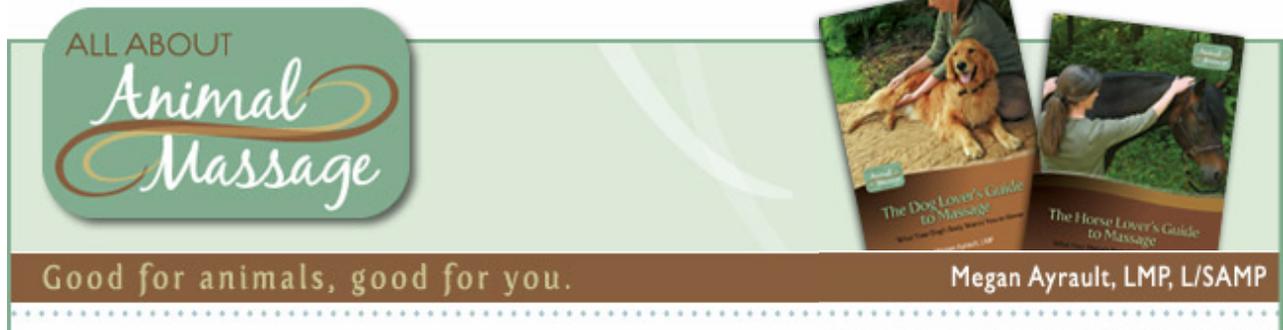
Animal Wellness News: Fresh Tips!

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ALL ABOUT
Animal Massage

Good for animals, good for you.

Megan Ayrault, LMP, L/SAMP

August 2009



Hello Animal Lovers!

Enjoy this new selection of [Animal Wellness Tips](#) offered by our Expert Advisors, along with the inspirational [Photo and Quote](#) of the month, and another [Special](#) for August. In September we'll get back to having a Guest Expert as well.

More educational resources:

- Examiner.com is source of information on just about any topic you can think of, including a pet category. I'm now the [Seattle Pet Massage Examiner](#), offering short articles and tips relating to pet massage, and I include horses as pets :) It's a slightly different format for getting a blog going!
- Check out the newest Horse Radio Network show, [Horse Tip Daily Radio Show](#). This show is a daily podcast offering a horse care related tip from a variety of professionals, including me offering tips on horse massage.
- Have you seen our [Facebook page](#)? Become a fan and share it with your FB friends!

Animal Wellness Tips



--[Kari DeLeeuw](#), DVM, VSMT, CVA
Equine Holistic Sports Medicine

A wake-up call about declawing



--[Debranne Pattillo](#), Founder and CEO
Equinology and Caninology

Look high as well as low

Declawing cats, in my opinion, is a cruel and unnecessary procedure. Declawing is an amputation of not only the claw and nail bed, but also the 3rd phalynx (lowest bone of each toe). Often the remaining bones in the toes heal with an abnormal bend, causing the last remaining bone to point straight down. This makes walking and jumping extremely painful and visible ulcers and abnormal wear are often evident on the pads for the rest of the cat's life. Since declawed cats almost always live with chronic pain, I highly recommend maintaining them with bodywork, chiropractic and acupuncture.

More on this topic in September's tips.



--[Lola Michelin](#), Founder and Director
Northwest School of Animal Massage

**Think a rhinoceros wouldn't enjoy a good massage now and then?
Think again!!**

Rhinos have coarse hairs over much of their body that are sensitive to touch and the skin folds around their ears, jowls, girth and flank are soft and pliable. Howard, a white rhinoceros who lives at the Brevard Zoo in Florida, loves getting massage and even enjoys having his keepers use stiff brooms to massage his belly and legs.



--[Kim Bauer](#), Lead Instructor
Tallgrass Animal Acupressure Institute

Connecting the hind end

Bai Hui (pronounced Bah-Way) is an acupressure point located along the spine where the hindquarters or haunches join onto the "low back." (If you feel along the bony prominences of the spine, you will come to a larger soft space here, which is between the last lumbar and first sacral vertebrae. This is Bai Hui.) This point can be used either to calm an animal or bring up their energy, because it helps them rebalance their own energy. It can also help with any kind of hind end disorder.

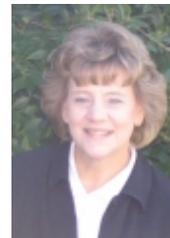
Horses with lower limb issues such as hoof problems and tendon issues also have problems in the muscles up higher in the leg and body, either as a result of tightening to avoid loading the limb completely, or in some cases as the original cause of strain. Be sure to check your horse's muscles thoroughly any time he is dealing with a lower limb pain or injury.



--[Jim Pascucci](#), Advanced Rolfer and
Author Animal Structural Integration

Talented enough to walk and chew gum?

Movement and digestive functions are separate. The body develops with a distinct separation between the function of digestion and that of movement into two "tubes": the digestive--which includes the mandible (jaw) and the digestive tract; and the movement--which includes the occiput (upper skull), the spine and the locomotor system. This separation allows a body to escape a threat while still processing food, or chewing gum!



--[Ruth Mitchell](#), PT, CMT and Author
*Facilitated Healing Through
Myofascial Release*

Healing happens in stages

Following injury, there is often a mechanical healing prior to true healing. So, the animal may appear to be "normal" and you may think it is appropriate to once again begin exercise/work. Take caution! Beginning too soon can lead to re-injury or at least a delay in the healing of the current injury. Remember - Pain-free does not mean cured!



"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is the faithful servant. We have created a society that favors the servant and has forgotten the gift."
~ *Albert Einstein*

Thank you to Constance Funk for sharing her photo, "Cosmic Gaela" and the quote, one of many in her latest book, *Holy As Thou*. The "third eye" in the middle of one's forehead is considered a source of intuition. Gaela's intuitive nature is beautifully represented with this special moment and angle caught by the camera. Our connections with animals help us nurture our own intuitive natures. And what better way to connect than with massage and bodywork?

August Special

**Complementary Guided Journals,
[Massaging My Dog](#) and [Massaging My Horse](#)
with purchase of
[The Dog Lover's Guide to Massage](#)
and/or
[The Horse Lover's Guide to Massage](#)**

*Contact Megan@AllAboutAnimalMassage.com to request your journal.

Our Expert Advisors and I will be back in September with more tips, specials and resources.
Keep in touch!

~Megan

www.AllAboutAnimalMassage.com

Send questions and comments to Megan@AllAboutAnimalMassage.com.
Learn more at AllAboutAnimalMassage.com and [Megan's Blog](#).
Find a professional at the [Animal Wellness Network](#).

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