

Case Study

Initial Presentation: An aged Quarter horse gelding that was champion five times at the All American Quarter Horse Congress during his career was presented with a generalized myositis from a hard show season, a long career and a 23 hour trailer ride to the show. Palpation revealed several areas of lumbar muscles in spasm in addition to a lack of range of motion in both stifles and hocks. His first event was in three days reining.

Treatment: Class IV Pegasus Therapy Laser was applied to the entire animal. Starting with acupuncture points Yin Tang, GV 24, TH 05, PC 06, HT07 and Bai Hui, a total of two to three seconds of application were applied to each point. This relaxed the animal within just a few minutes. Then 10,000 joules of laser energy was applied starting along the meridian lines laterally along the cervical spine and continuing down just lateral to each side of the thoracic, lumbar and gluteal musculature. Following this, 1,200 joules of laser energy was applied to the carpal, fetlock, stifle and hock joints. Total treatment time was only a little over 30 minutes. The animal was allowed to rest for about 12 hours and was then exercised lightly.

Results: Twenty-four hours later this aged animal was at least 60% improved upon palpation. The trainer reported that the night before he "rode the best he has ridden in months."

Treatment: Class IV laser therapy was again applied with the Pegasus Therapy Laser in the same fashion as the previous day. The total treatment time was again only a little over 30 minutes. During the night, the animal was trained fairly rigorously since his first event was reining.

Results: Forty-eight hours after the first treatment and twenty-four hours after the second treatment, after an hour of training, this animal actually palpated very well and there was an increased range of motion in both of the stifles and hocks.

Treatment: A third treatment was administered with particular attention to the lumbar, gluteal, semimembranosus and semitendinosus muscles. All joints were treated and a total of 15,000 joules of laser energy were applied.

Results: This animal made the top ten in his cut and in the trainer's words: "he has the bounce back in his step."

This animal was in four more classes over a ten-day period. Laser therapy was administered approximately 24 hours before each class. Out of 138 in his class, he placed 7th with a 12 year old girl riding and 5th out of a class of 168 with another youth in the saddle.