Micro Current
Perfect Electrical Stim for Horses

By Deborah Powell

I was raised to be afraid of electrical current. This was reinforced with movies about Frankenstein, and the ones showing some crazy person needing shock treatments. I know I am not alone because people have the same reactions when they see what I do with micro current! The first time I saw a boarders horse getting electrical treatment and heard the gibberish that the was told to me about what was happening to the horse made me very skeptical. That was close to 10 years ago. Here's a condensed version of my path into the micro current world and the reasons why I will have a micro current instrument as long as I own horses.

Case #1: 4 yr. old WB Mare, Condition: Noodle Neck

This was my first exposure. The mare had only been in my barn a very short time. She was a gangly growing giant with no awareness of her own body parts. While hanging her head and neck out into the aisle from her stall window she managed to slam her neck perpendicular to the outside of the stall wall forgetting to back her head and neck out first. When her owner discovered her at 6:00am, her horse's nose was on the ground and she literally could not lift her head. The vet gave her injections of steroids, vitamin E and selenium. His prognosis was grim. If there was no improvement in the next few days it could be major tissue damage and 6 months of rest might do it, or the neck could be fractured and she would have to be put down. Her mare was miserable, the pain in her eyes brought all of us to tears. Eating was a struggle, moving was a struggle, it seemed an impossible situation. Networking for solutions the owner decided to try a person offering something called Acuscope Therapy. The claims seemed outlandish but with the circumstances at hand, anything seemed better than nothing. I think she was there within the first few days of the mare's injury. At the time the mare was no worse, but no better either. The therapist (JW) hooked the mare up to a box the size of a 1970's stereo. It had plenty of noise and flashing red LED numbers. I walked out of the barn. An hour later I returned and the therapist was still treating. The mare had a softness to her eyes, the head was still on the ground, but clearly she was a more comfortable. The mare's whole life revolved around her treatments. The only person she acknowledged with a nicker was her therapist. In three months she was back in full training.

Case # 2: 4 yr. old Paint, Condition: Suspensory Ligament Strain?

This is my daughter, Nicole's horse, Ari. Purchased as a green 4 year old, this was her dream horse. One she could finish training. Three months later he came up lame on the right rear. Horsey friends gave their opinion as to his condition and through out words like suspensory ligament strain, with a possible check ligament involvement. "Could be off six months", they said. Six months! I called the vet. He was out of town and I could be booked for the following week for a lameness exam. We treated the heat and swelling with cold, bute, a poultice, and support wrapped him. We decided to call in JW with her box. Our thinking was it helped the Noodle Neck horse, so why not? I come from old fashioned stock and tend to go by gut instincts anyway. Nicole provided the head cuddling while JW treated with micro current. As in case #1 Ari enjoyed his treatments, head cuddling and all. Still to this day a head cuddle is one of his favorite things. I often wondered how much was placebo effect? Recently watching a PBS special on healing, Deepak Chopra, M.D. spoke of the importance of the placebo affect and our good intentions. I think the micro current machines allowed us to feel empowered in their recovery process. The horses tell us how much they like the gentle stimulation with soft eyes, relaxed body, and more comfortable stance that can last for days. We did 3 treatments that week. We decided to put off the exam and do another three treatments. The leg became heat free and tight, but his gate was still slightly off. Nicole was nervous about re-injury and took a conservative approach to rehabilitation. Plus, we were going into winter. For the next 3 months she weaned off wrapping, adding hand walking, long-lining, then bareback walks with polo wraps on. For another month she kept her workouts light. At 6 months he was in full training again. How much did the micro current contribute? Can't say.

However, today Ari is her 12 yr. old 3-Day Eventer, and he is solid as a rock. Literature suggests Microcurrent can make ligaments and tendons stronger by treating during the repair process. The mini roller was used to direct current through the tendon fibers.

Case #3: 13 yr. old Arab Mare, Condition: Bad Back

This was my mare, Reba. She was my current fix'em up project. She came to me very underweight, with cycling problems, and a sore back. Plenty of good food and a last resort spaying resolved the first two issues. My vet suggested six months off for her back. It didn't work. Massage and chiropractic treatment gave only temporary relief. Saddle changes to strictly english helped a little too. I decided to try microcurrent again. Reba loved the treatments. Soon I was riding her but, I could not ride her downhill without bucking. We decided to look beyond the back and started going over every inch of her body. JW discovered little hard circles the sizes of quarters following the pelvis to almost the tip of the ischium. My job was to use the mini roller electrode and attempt to break up those scars. In about 4 treatments a couple were gone and the other three were the sizes of nickels and dimes. Her range of motion improved dramatically. She was finally reaching fully with her hind legs into the steps of her front feet, so much so that my farrier started squaring of her hind toes to keep her from forging. She maintained a distrust for heavy riders and hated unbalanced riders. Reba was finally sound and happy and later we sold her to home with a youngster.

Note: The heavy equipment and piling gel onto brass electrodes seem so arcaic to me and the mini roller with its metal handle kept stinging me. The electrical sting was so annoying I wore latex gloves. I was thinking "There's got to be a better way".

Case #4; 16 yr. Old Arab Mare, Condition: Stump Leg

Rayanna was another rescue that I stupidly thought could be sound enough for my daughter to use as a 4-H horse. Acquired when my daughter and Rayanna were 11. At 11 years her old bowed tendon and slight gimp didn't seem that bad. One day I witnessed the most beautiful in the airs moves (Levades) I had ever seen, however when she came down she crashed! The stump had a fresh new hot lump along the deep flexor tendon. I began to understand why the stump was so huge! My neighbor confessed she too had seen my mare perform these moves. I went and spent money on X-Rays to be told, "You could breed her." I treated her new lump with cold, poultices, DMSO, and support wrapping. A friend took her to be a companion mare and I ended the nightmare of trying to fix this one. A few years later, my friend needed to place her. She was concerned about Rayanna's future and wanted what was best for her. Back into my barn she came. Her gimp was even more pronounced and the clubbed foot looked awful. My friend had been nervous to let the farrier keep the heel down. I told her about microcurrent. The therapist I was using had gone back to a full time job and allowed me to rent her equipment. I was pleased at the progress I was making on Rayanna's legs. Using the mini roller I could visually see the leg tissue suck down to a tight looking leg. In 6 treatments the definition was remarkable. I casted her leg with Cool Casts (the gel casts that smell like Calamine lotion) after each session. She was turned out by day and was in at night. The cast kept her leg tight between treatments. I treated approx. 3x times a week. My farrier was so impressed he offered to start taking the heel off of the club foot down by fractions weekly as an experiment to get the tendon to stretch. At 13 treatments it took a discerning eye to notice the bowed leg. Although the scars were still present, they were reduced and the leg had become nicely defined. I could still see a slight offness at the walk. but the trot and canter were wonderful. She was placed with a lovely lady that took beginning riding lessons with her. Hopefully, at 23 she has stopped doing pasture acrobatics!

Perfect Electrical Stim for Horses, cont Case #5 & 6

Case #5 13 yr. old TB Gelding, Condition: Hit by a Car

I had been playing with my Precision Micro Stim for months now and treated splints, colic, a hematoma and windpuffs on my personal brood and a few friends horses. When my ex-boarder called to ask if she could bring her horse over after being hit by a car it only to a moment for me to say yes. He was a very special guy. The vet had just left and felt he was very lucky, mostly scraped and bruised. The vet said he was going to be very sore. He was given a s steroid injection. I was asked if I could help make him more comfortable. I had treated him before and we new he would respond well. He was to stay a few days to be properly pampered. With the injury now hours old you could see his pain. I decided to treat the worst looking leg and his back. I was marveling at the ease of treating with my new tools. I could gently put on weightless electrodes everywhere on his hurting body. I was playing with some higher frequencies on the Precision for inflammation when I noticed him ever so gently bobbing his head and nipping the air. I loosened the cross ties and watched as he tried to bite his chest. I looked where he was biting and before my eyes a very large hematoma was forming. I moved electrodes over to his chest and he relaxed and went to sleep! It was the first time a horse said loudly, "Treat me here!" It took several days to resolve the hematoma. His owner decided to take him home when the hematoma was 90% gone. It was barely discernible. By then the rest of his body was feeling pretty good too. Today, I could have used the acoustic massager and taken care of a hematoma much faster. But, that's progress...

Case #6 7 yr. old Arab gelding Condition: Shock / Body Soreness

This was a lovely sunny Sunday that was interrupted with a driver stopping by and telling me a horse was running down the road dragging something behind him. As I went to the barn to grab a halter, lead rope, and some grain, three more cars stopped and each gave more details. It was some kind of wire, he was moving three-legged and he was stopped a couple of miles down the road. I grabbed pliers and took off in my car. There he was in a horse persons yard with his leg tied up to his belly and his tail pulled down amongst all of it. It was my direct neighbors horse and he was completely lathered, exhausted, dehydrated, and appeared to be going into shock. He let me approach him and I was able to halter him while studying the situation. It was no ordinary wire it was a strong coiled gate. The coils had totally entangled his leg and tail. Next, a lady appeared from the house. I thought of her as an angel, I was feeling very overwhelmed. I explained I new the horse and her owner was at work and I did not know how to reach her. She asked if she should call a vet, but she could see what I was seeing, we needed to do something now. She was frightened by his violent shaking and sort of wild dazed look. I told her I had to get my husband with some heavy duty wire cutters. She said she had Banamine and if I would take responsibility she would give him some. I thought that would be good under the circumstance. He seemed calmer and I left to get my husband. It took a good half hour to free the horse from the wire. But, now what? Standing there waiting for a vet on Sunday wasn't appealing to me. I wondered if he could walk? He was lame, but he could walk. I walked him home and put him in a stall, while I went over to check on the rest of her herd and left her a message. All were fine and it was clear he had been in his own paddock, the one with a coiled gate missing. I grabbed some lunch and headed back to the barn. He was whinnying now and pacing, he always was a bit high strung. His leg was a swollen mess. I decided to treat him to calm him and try to make him more comfortable. My neighbor was a friend of 20 years and I knew if things were reversed she would do the same for me. He was afraid of the wires, so I took my time hooking him up. But, that was it, once it was on he was a grateful little fella. I treated for an hour, blessing my machine. How nice to be able to make a awful situation a little better. My friend works 12 hour days and by time she showed up all the horses were tucked in and he was happily eating dinner. She stopped by the barn before coming up to the house and says from your message I thought be would look a lot worse. I told her I had treated him and he was still in that mode, but by morning I thought he would be really sore. She called me after work the following day and said yes he looked awful that morning and was even worse now, could I do whatever I did, again. I think I treated him 3x over the next few days to get him through the worst of it.

Perfect Electrical Stim for Horses, cont Case #7

Case #7 11 yr. old Paint Condition: Colic

My daughter's horse, Ari gets anxious before shows and has had several mild colic episodes. Usually micro current relieves the distress in about an hour with him. He exhibits the classic biting at the sides, won't eat, won't drink, symptoms. We have a mini unit assigned to him during show season. Last summer at a 3-Day event 8 hours away he had the worst episode yet. Housed in small portable stalls, his neighbor on the other side of his back wall paced, hollered and banged her bucket continuously. He got little sleep and was not eating as well. Over the 4 days he performed nicely, but the last day after she put him up he quit eating and drinking. They were to pull out in the morning. Nicole monitored Ari through the evening and tried small walks and a trip to the creek. Still nothing. She put on his microcurrent and stayed up with him most of the night. Still nothing. Vitals were ok and he passed manure so it was decided to bring him home to our local veterinarian's clinic. A water bucket was placed in his stall and stops on the way indicated still no water intake. At the clinic Nicole removed his microcurrent unit for a colic exam. He passed. Nice manure no impaction, good gut sounds, and slightly dehydrated. In hindsight, I wished I would have insisted on IV fluids before leaving. It was decided going home would probably be the best thing for him. I treated him with the Precision and we put him out on a small grassy pasture with water soaked hay and fresh water measured to tell if he drank. He choose to nibble grass and an occasional bite of hay. It's about 7:00 pm and we go in for dinner. It's 8:00pm, but still doesn't go to water! At 1:00am he still was the same, wondering, nibbling, and exhausted. We went in to take a nap. At dawn, he was in trouble again. He had been rolling and looked absolutely miserable! I put the Precision back on him when we discovered he had rolled off his mini unit. Hard to believe, but it was still powered and just fine laying in the pasture. I put it back on and Nicole shows up as I am again watching him. I update her that it doesn't look like he drank yet, and no I can't imagine enough moisture in the dry summer grass to be adequate. Nicole is crying and we're headed to the house to call the vet. As if to say, get a grip ladies, Ari walks over to the water trough and takes a sip. Not volumes, but a good sip! He repeats small sips throughout day. The next day a wonderful body worker (BD) stopped by and discovered Ari had a rib really jammed. A couple gentle MFR moves and he let out a huge sigh of relief. BD commented his tissue was wonderful to work with and realizing the extent of spasm he was in, it was no wonder he did not want to eat or drink! This was not his normal colic episode, but I think microcurrent played a huge roll in getting Ari through his problem.

Recap:

These are a few more memorable moments over the past 10 years. I am vague on dates and times because frankly I can't remember. Somewhere between Case 5 & 6 I started getting microcurrent systems for other people. It seemed a natural step to start sharing information with others on what I was learning. The product line's growth is due to customers sending me shopping. The most important reason microamperage is the perfect electrical stim for horses is that it's comfortable for them. Horses have less skin resistance than people. This means you can probably handle higher levels of electrical stim than your horse. It still takes common sense to use microamperage properly, but it is by far, the safest of any electrical stim device. In the last four years I have talked to hundreds of people with remarkable personal experiences with microcurrent. Maybe you know one or two yourself!

Perfect Electrical Stim for Horses cont.

It is mind boggling to learn how many people credit microcurrent as having saved their horses. Well, if you add it up, horses have had the access to microcurrent since 1979.

How microcurrent units and the TENS Class differ?

A microcurrent stimulator is a very different category in principal. The current from a microamp device is just slightly above those produced by the body which operates in pico /nanoamp ranges. Microcurrent stimulators range is 10 to 600 μa (microamps) or 1/1000th of a milliamp, or 1/1,000,000th of a ampere. This is a very tiny amount of current! The work compiled in a book " The Body Electric," by Robert O. Becker M.D. is a compilation of thirty years of his work. He is an orthopedic surgeon turned researcher. With experiments on salamander and frog regeneration the work proved electricity triggered healing. Microamp stimulation has been called biostimulation or bioelectric therapy because of its ability to stimulate cellular physiology and growth processes. Where as current used above the minute levels was shown to inhibit or retard the healing process.

Ampere Scales			
Pico (micromicro) p (μμ)		1,000,000 /1 micro	(Human Body Range)
Nano (millimicro) n (mμ)		1,000 /1 micro	(Human Body Range)
Micro	μ (μa)	1,000,000 /1 ampere	(Just Above Human Range)
Milli	m (ma)	1,000/ 1 ampere	(Stun Human Nerve Sheath)