

Veterinary Homeopathy
ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE

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HOMEOPATHY

Origins

If we were to journey back to Europe in the late 18th Century, we would see a remarkably crude, ineffective, dogmatic, arrogant and destructive medical establishment, apparently serving no one but the physicians of the day, who charged money for their dire activities. Into this world came Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician who could not tolerate what was being done to patients in the name of medicine.

Samuel Hahnemann dropped out of medicine as a result and made his living from translating medical texts into his native German. He was proficient in many languages. It was while translating a book by William Cullen, a prominent Scottish Physician, that Hahnemann's questioning mind led him down the trail of discovery that gave us homeopathy.

Cullen described the action of Peruvian Bark (that gives us Quinine) on malaria. He wrote that it worked via a 'tonic effect on the stomach'. Hahnemann knew this medicine to be one of the few effective remedies of the day and could not accept this totally unscientific and clearly concocted theory for Quinine's undoubted efficacy. He decided to experiment and, in the absence of a scientific establishment in those days, the only relevant method he could devise was to take it himself and see what it did to him.

The answer astounded him. Here was an effective medicine against malaria and in him, a healthy person, it induced signs indistinguishable from malaria. From this came his theory of 'let like be cured by like' and the rest, as they say, is history. He went on to 'prove' (i.e. test) many substances in this same painstaking way, building up a basic materia medica of seventy medicines (now several thousand!). He also, in order to make the medicines safer, serially diluted them in a methodical fashion, 'energising' them by 'succussion' at each

dilution stage. The fact that his dilutions took him 'beyond the molecule' was not understood in those days, since the atom and the molecule were yet to be discovered. It is this extreme dilution (with succussion) that puts homeopathy into the energy realm.

Action and uses

[Homeopathy](#) acts by stimulating the body's own healing ability. As a result, instead of fighting and trying to counteract or suppress symptoms it is encouraging and supporting the body to heal. When symptoms are relieved, it is via a healing mechanism and those symptoms are conquered. They are not suppressed for future reappearance, with the danger of side-effects which suppressive medicine brings.

The particular medicine is chosen for the patient according to the patient's individual expression of symptoms, not according to the name of the disease. In homeopathy, therefore, there is no set remedy for any named disease, the patient dictates the remedy. The signs taken for this remedy selection process include behavioural traits, demeanour, mental signs, physical signs (from all over the body) and historical information, in addition to the description of the presenting problem. A comprehensive 'picture' of the patient is built up and matched to the pictures of the medicines collected over the years. The medicine chosen is that whose recorded 'picture' matches most closely the patient's 'picture'. If it is to be done properly, therefore with the best hope of success, this process is neither quick nor easy. Consultations can take an hour and follow up is very important, in order to determine the patient's response.

Because vet homeopathy is [holistic](#), great attention and time should be devoted to the detailed matters of [diet](#), environment and daily management. Do not, therefore, expect a quick and easy fix, especially for chronic disease. Without this attention to detail, the medicine will be only partially effective. Diet will be the subject of a separate article, in its own right, since it is such an important topic and underpins all good medicine.

The benefit from this painstaking process is the potential for cure of serious and chronic ailments, which would otherwise be written off as incurable. Such conditions as skin diseases, arthritis, epileptiform fits, colitis, auto-immune disorders, behavioural problems, blood disorders, dry eye, chronic eye ulcers, chronic sinusitis (a real problem in some cats), digestive disorders and many others make up the daily case load of the [veterinary homoeopath](#). In horses, laminitis, COPD, navicular disease, sarcoidosis, skin disorders, OCD, ringbone, degenerative joint disease, sweet itch and many others can respond. Even some cancers in all species, although the statistical success rate is not good, can respond. What is offered is a very real chance of actual cure, for conditions in

which modern drug medicine can only hope to relieve signs and symptoms with ongoing drug therapy. All this is without fear of side-effects, so often the scourge of modern drug medicine.

Veterinary homeopathy can also be of great benefit in many acute disease and first-aid situations. The author always uses it as a first line of therapy for his own illnesses and injuries! Many farmers are finding that they can treat most diseases that arise in their livestock, without recourse to antibiotics etc., thus leaving no risk of drug residues in food from those animals. Organic farmers are turning to homeopathy for the treatment of their animals. Many dog, cat and horse owners are becoming proficient in the first-aid use of homeopathy for their precious charges.

Veterinary Homeopathy

In about 1813, Hahnemann described the use of his remarkable system of medicine in animals. It was in 1813, too, that homeopathy was first put to a real test. Hahnemann was in Leipzig at the time of the great Napoleonic battle of that name and Typhus broke out in the city. While other physicians were losing most of their patients to this deadly disease, Hahnemann lost two out of 180! Homeopathy was also put to the test when Asiatic Cholera swept through Europe, in successive waves. In London, in 1854, it proved much more effective than the conventional efforts of the day but the results were suppressed (as recorded in Hansard)!

Boenninghausen (1785 – 1864), one of homeopathy's greatest 19th Century writers, used it for his animals on his huge estates in Westphalia. Johann Lux (1773 - 1849) was also an early proponent.

In more modern times, the Faculty of Homeopathy in London, the British Association of Homoeopathic Veterinary Surgeons (founded 1982) and the International Association for Veterinary Homoeopathy (founded 1986) have championed the use of homeopathy for animals and have established training, standards and qualifications in veterinary homeopathy. As a result, it is now possible to consult veterinary surgeons who have training and qualifications in this safe, gentle, effective system of medicine.

In Britain, the BAHVS holds the list of veterinary surgeons who use homeopathy. This can be obtained by sending an SAE, stamped for 60gms, to 'Hon. Sec. BAHVS, Alternative Veterinary Medicine Centre, Chinham House, Stanford in the Vale, Oxon SN7 8NQ'. The various levels of training undertaken by each member are detailed. Worldwide, the IAVH can supply a contact for each country which has members. Most countries of Europe, the USA, Central & South America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have

members. Write to 'General Secretary IAVH, Sonnhaldenstrasse 24, CH-8370, Sirmach, Switzerland.'

Summary

Homeopathy is now widely available for animals. It is a safe, gentle and effective therapy, which offers a chance of real cure, not just in acute and first-aid situations but also for serious and chronic disease.

Written by Christopher Day (veterinary homeopath) – October 2000

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