

Homeopathy for Horses **ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE**

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HOMEOPATHY FOR HORSES

EQUINE HOMEOPATHY

In Germany in the late eighteenth century there was a genius called Samuel Hahnemann. This man turned away from the immoral, ineffective and dangerous medical practices of the day and discovered the principle of homeopathy. He found that minute doses of substances which could cause symptoms in a healthy body could also bring about cure when a diseased body showed those similar signs and symptoms. This is the principle of 'let likes be cured by likes', the underlying method of [homeopathy](#), the treatment of disease by similars. He discovered this by noting that quinine-containing material could cure malaria and yet cause symptoms indistinguishable from malaria when given to a healthy body.

In 1813 he lectured in Leipzig on the use of homeopathy in animals. He laid down the principles of animal treatment, broadly similar to the treatment of humans. How sad that this time-honoured, powerful, gentle, safe and effective system of medicine is not taught at our veterinary and medical schools, in modern times. Homeopathy is able to treat the vast majority of acute and chronic diseases of the [horse](#), quite without risk of side-effects and without giving rise to residues in blood or tissues. The meticulous serial dilution and succussion process gives us medicines of incredible dilution but, at the same time, harnesses their curative energy in the solution and renders this very powerful. It is this paradox which presents the stumbling block of acceptance to the modern medical scientist but which appears to create no problem for pure physicists. Einstein would have been comfortable with it, as it fits in with his laws of relativity, relating energy and mass.

Horse veterinarians who practise homeopathy are given the ability to treat wounds and injuries without antibiotic. Viral and bacterial infectious diseases can be cured or prevented without resort to drugs or vaccines. Such chronic and much-feared diseases as navicular disease, arthritis, laminitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD or heaves) and sweet itch are usually very amenable to the gentle

power of homeopathy, properly applied in a holistic way, taking nutrition, shoeing, saddling, etc. into due account, in order to remove any obstacles to recovery. There are even many people who do not vaccinate their horses against influenza, preferring to rely upon [nosodes](#) (homeoprophylaxis) for their horses' protection. This method of disease prevention is, as yet, without scientific laboratory evidence of efficacy, since proponents of natural medicine are averse to animal experimentation and the wilful causing of disease in animals for research purposes. However, the method is good enough for all the author's own animals, dogs, cats, horses, cattle and pigs and for those of a great many clients.

Homeopathic remedies are prepared from all varieties of material: vegetable, mineral and animal. Plant remedies include: *Aconitum*, given to patients in shock or suffering sudden-onset diseases; *Belladonna*, a remedy which is very valuable in acute fevers and in early laminitis; *Arnica*, a medicine which is the first-line treatment of all injuries, whether they be equine or human (one only has to try this oneself to witness the seemingly miraculous effects); *Ledum*, a treatment for puncture wounds, helping to promote healing and to prevent sepsis and tetanus and *Rhus toxicodendron*, a remedy for stiffness of joints and muscles. Mineral remedies include: *Silica*, a medicine which can promote resolution of abscesses and rejection of penetrating foreign bodies (e.g. thorns); *Sulphur*, a remedy of great reputation in skin treatments and *Hepar sulphuris*, a medicine which treats septic wounds. Animal-derived remedies include: *Apis mellifica* (honey bee extract), a remedy which is valuable in cases of urticaria or windgalls and *Lachesis* (venom of the bushmaster snake) which can help cases of 'purpura' and 'bleeders'.

The vast scope and power of homeopathy can be better realised when one knows that these mentioned medicines are only a very few of the **several thousand** remedies available to the veterinary homeopath.

So many horses suffering chronic disease are written off as hopeless when homeopathy has not even been considered. Laminitis cases, navicular diseases, chronic lung problems or hay allergies etc. can all respond amazingly well to properly-applied homeopathic medicine and holistic management. Many who have refused to give up have been rewarded with fit and active horses in return for their persistence.

The major differences between homeopathic medicines and conventional drugs are that homeopathic medicines are given to stimulate the body's own healing powers and are selected according to the principle of 'similars'. They are given in extreme dilutions, removing any possibility of side effects or toxicity. Conventional drugs are given to counteract or suppress symptoms and signs (the principle of 'opposites') and are in material doses, with acknowledge risks of side effects and toxicity.

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If seeking homeopathy for your horse, it is important that this is performed by a veterinary surgeon as a point of law ([Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966](#)). Sadly there are few veterinary surgeons (homeopathic vets) well-versed in veterinary homeopathy and even fewer in the wider aspects of holistic management. The situation is improving but is still far from satisfactory at present. Always ask your own veterinary surgeon in the first instance, since he or she will have access to specialist lists for referral. However, be warned that, at the time of placing this article on the website, there is a vociferous and outspoken minority in the profession who are sworn to oppose homeopathy and even to see it outlawed.

Article written by Christopher Day (homeopathic vet and holistic vet)

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