

A Pocket Guide



DOGS AND HOMEOPATHY

PETER GREGORY

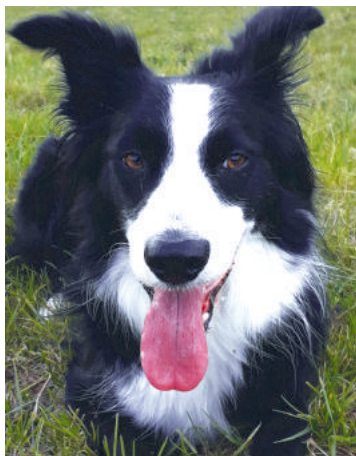
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by

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(Picture credit P Gregory)



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INTRODUCTION AND GUIDANCE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VETERINARY HOMEOPATHY

The Ancient Egyptians are known to have treated illness using the homeopathic principle, the Ancient Greeks also refer to it; Hippocrates (c.460–c.357 BC) is quoted thus: ‘The majority of maladies may be cured by the same things that have caused them’. Paracelsus (1493–1541), one of the great medical figures of his era, proposed that medicines should be prescribed on the same basis. However, it was not until the early 19th century that the system of homeopathy was fully developed, by a German physician, Samuel Hahnemann. He chose the name from two Greek words meaning ‘same’ and ‘suffering’, and he encapsulated the principle in the phrase ‘*Similia similibus curentur*’ – ‘Let likes be cured by likes’. In order to discover what symptoms a remedy could relieve, Hahnemann undertook trials in which he administered the substance to healthy individuals and noted the effects. He used the word ‘prüfung’ meaning ‘test’, hence they are now referred to as ‘provings’.

The collection of symptoms gathered from the provings, from toxicology and from clinical practice, has been gathered in the various homeopathic materia medicas published since Hahnemann. To find a way around the information various doctors have created works known as ‘repertories’, which consist of lists of symptoms linked to lists of remedies known to be effective in treating them. They are also now available as computer programmes, some of which include information from vets.

While Hahnemann was driven by a desire to relieve the suffering of people, he also treated animals, and so did many of his followers.

Homeopathy has been used by vets in UK from the early 19th Century up to the present day. The British Association of

Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons (BAHVS) was founded in 1982 and the International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH) in 1986.

The Faculty of Homeopathy in London was established in 1844 and, following the launch of the British National Health Service (NHS) in 1948, was given official status in 1950 by incorporation through the parliamentary Faculty of Homeopathy Act. In 1984 it established a veterinary course, probably the first such course in the world. It awards a foundation qualification, Veterinary Licentiate of the Faculty of Homeopathy (LFHom(Vet)) and a full qualification of Veterinary Member of the Faculty of Homeopathy (VetMFHom).

USING HOMŒOPATHY IN ANIMALS

As we have seen, Hahnemann's principle of 'simila similibus curentur' (let likes be cured by likes) implies that the symptoms exhibited by a patient can be cured by giving a substance which, if given to a healthy individual, would reproduce the same symptoms. Hence if we have a dog who has itchy skin, we might give it small doses of sulphur, as we know that if a healthy dog is given sulphur it will develop itching of the skin. Symptoms like these, relating to a specific part of the body, are known as 'local symptoms'. However Hahnemann also discovered that to be reliable, the remedy has to match the whole patient. This involves more information; firstly we need to know the characteristics of the symptoms, such as what makes them better or worse, known as the 'modalities'. For instance with Sulphur, the itch is made worse by bathing in cold water. We also need to know the nature of the skin – is it red; is it flaky? Then we need to know if our patient has any other symptoms, such as runny nose or loose stools – these are known as 'concomitant' symptoms. Next we need to look at such features as thirst or appetite, or reactions to heat and cold; these are the 'general symptoms'. Factors that make the whole patient better or worse are called 'general modalities', so a dog who always seeks warm

Administering remedies to dogs

Note that the amount of remedy is not important. One tablet or similar is the dose for a tiny puppy or a giant dog.

Homeopathic remedies are readily absorbed through the mucous membranes, the most convenient of which is in the mouth, but they also work perfectly well if they are swallowed. However, preferably give them at least half an hour away from food or drink, and avoid giving strong tasting foods such as peppermint or garlic while your dog is receiving homeopathic treatment.

With tablets or pillules, tip them gently into the lid of the container and use this to drop them down the throat.

With powders, drop them onto the tongue or lift the lip and drop them onto the gum. The precise amount is not important – enough sticks on the tongue or mucous membranes to be effective. Granules may be used in the same way, and tablets may also be crushed to form powder.

Liquid remedies may be dropped directly into the mouth or onto the inside of the lips, or added to the (clean) drinking water. They may also be administered as a spray, and are available in this form.

If all else fails, remedies may be added to food; this may be necessary for small snappy dogs (or big fierce ones!) but there remains the uncertainty of whether they will be effective, so use something bland such as dry bread or scrambled egg.

If you are giving two remedies together, allow 10–15 minutes between them.

USING THIS BOOK TO SELECT A REMEDY

General layout

Chapter on First Aid remedies

This chapter describes remedies that can be selected on very simple information, hence the descriptions are brief.

REMEDIES FOR FIRST AID AND SURGERY

These really useful remedies can be given to your dog simply based on the situation and simple guidelines described. If you have 1M or 200c potency these can be used initially, but 30c is perfectly adequate and is ideal for continuation. I believe no household should ever be without a supply of Arnica tablets and a tube of Calendula cream, for the benefit of every member of the family.

FIRST AID

Abscess

As an abscess develops, it 'points' – an area of skin breaks down and the abscess opens up and drains naturally.

Painful, very sensitive, foul smelling pus **Hepar sulph** High potency suppresses development, low potency encourages development so it points and drains.

Where abscess is already draining yellow pus **Calc sulph**

To aid opening and draining **Myristica**

Chronic, cold, exuding thin serum **Silica** See foreign body

Purple discolouration of skin, very painful **Tarentula cubensis**

Blue discolouration of skin, bloody pus **Lachesis**

Pus smells like rotten meat **Pyrogenium**

Bone injury

Injury to bone, periosteum; fractures, also non-unions (do not heal even after immobilising) **Symphytum**

Fractures and non-unions **Calc phos**

Pain from the slightest movement **Bryonia**

Bruising

Give **Arnica** as soon as possible after the injury.

Pelvic or deep muscular injury **Bellis**

Orbit of the eye ('black eye') **Symphytum**

Blue bruising of the hock **Ledum**

Burns and scalds

Cantharis

THE NOSE

Conditions such as rhinitis and sinusitis are characterised by the type of discharge emanating from the nose, in particular its colour and consistency. There is not always a clear distinction between green and yellow. An acrid discharge burns the tissues over which it runs, as opposed to a bland discharge. Other symptoms include sneezing. They may represent one facet of a more general condition affecting the upper or lower respiratory systems, and which may also involve symptoms of the eye.

Nose bleed (Epistaxis)

General remedy **Millefolium**

Profuse, sudden **Aconite**

From injury **Arnica**

Thin active dog **Phosphorus**

After sneezing **Nitric acid**

With pharyngitis or tonsillitis **Ferrum phos**

Inflammation (Rhinitis)

Discharge

Watery, acrid, better indoors **Arsen alb**

Acrid with bland watery ocular discharge **Allium cepa**

Bland, worse indoors with acrid ocular discharge **Euphrasia**

Green/yellow/white, bland, creamy **Pulsatilla**

Acrid, thick, green/yellow, often with ulcerations **Merc sol**

Stringy yellow/green, with sinusitis **Kali bich**

Thick yellow, profuse **Argentum nit**

Green/yellow, obstructed, right sided **Lycopodium**

Gelatinous, opaque, like raw egg white **Natrum mur**

With streaks of blood **Phosphorus**

Purulent, painful esp., sinuses **Hepar sulph**

Chronic thick yellow discharge, obstructing nose **Calc carb**

Chronic, watery, brown or greenish, dry crusts **Silica**

Profuse, thick, yellow, ropy **Hydrastis**

White discharges **Kali mur**

Yellow/green, foul smell, streaks of blood **Aurum met**

Chronic, acrid, thick, yellow, honey-like **Arsen iod** *Useful in distemper*

Chronic thick nasal catarrh, worse in warm room **Kali carb**