

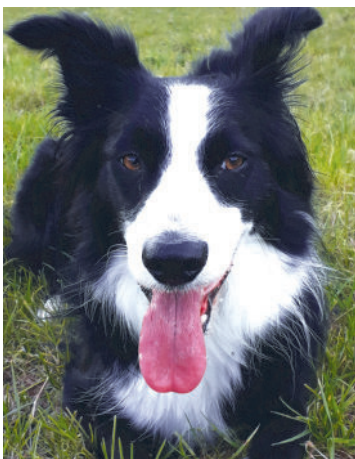
DOGS AND HOMEOPATHY

A Pocket Guide

by

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(Picture credit P Gregory)



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PREFACE

Every animal is unique, and each type of domestic animal offers a particular relationship with their human companion. Dogs have been in close relationship with humans for thousands of years, and those of us who live with them benefit in many ways, but this relationship also brings the responsibility to care for them to the best of our ability. Homeopathy gives us the opportunity to do this in an unparalleled way, and the aim of this book is to guide dog owners and vets in providing these benefits to their pets and patients respectively. It is designed as a guide and reference to aid them in selecting homeopathic remedies for the dogs in their care. With a good knowledge of canine health and careful observation, it should be possible to select an appropriate remedy for many of the common conditions that affect them. The information is based on the author's experience over 40 years of homeopathic veterinary practice and teaching; it is not and never can be complete, however it should provide sufficient information for the dog owner or practising veterinary surgeon to cover most situations. The use of a materia medica or repertory can enhance this ability, but please remember there is no substitute for professional veterinary care, and in particular, some conditions require the attention of a qualified homeopathic vet.

I hope you find it helpful.

Peter Gregory
Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, West Wales
October 2024

DISCLAIMER

This book is intended as a guide, and is not meant to be a substitute for the veterinary diagnosis and treatment of dogs. Therefore, if you are not a vet, you should always seek professional help whenever the diagnosis or welfare of the animal is in question.

In UK it is illegal for anyone other than a vet to make a diagnosis or to treat an animal, but you may treat your own animals with homeopathy.

It is also your prerogative to seek a referral from your vet to a colleague who practises homeopathy. Seeking one who has Membership of the Faculty of Homeopathy ('VetMFHom') ensures they have studied homeopathy at an accredited centre and have reached a high standard of practice.

For a list of vets qualified in homeopathy see the website of the British Association of Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons www.bahvs.org. or the Faculty of Homeopathy www.facultyofhomeopathy.org.

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The names of remedies are those most commonly used in practice.

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 'proving'.

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

THE EYE

Eye symptoms may appear independently, or as part of an upper respiratory condition.

Important features include the type and amount of the discharges and the condition of the cornea, such as ulceration. A discharge may be acrid (burns the surfaces over which it runs) or bland. There is not always a clear distinction between green and yellow.

Hair loss around eye (Alopecia)

Alopecia with normal skin **Sepia**

Intensely itchy **Sulphur Psorinum**

Skin cracked, scurfy **Petroleum**

Swelling

Eyelids

Oedema, esp. allergic **Apis**

Chronic oedematous **Medusa**

Upper lids only **Kali carb**

With inflammation **Rhus tox**

Conjunctiva (Chemosis)

Clear pink, oedema **Apis**

With profuse yellow discharge **Argentum nit**

With acrid watery discharge **Arsen alb**

With sticky discharge **Graphites**

Inflammation

Eyelids (Blepharitis)

Eye red, purulent discharge **Rhus tox**

Profuse yellow/green discharge **Argentum nit**

Sticky yellow discharge **Graphites**

Tiny ulcers, tendency to bleed **Nitric acid**

Refractory cases **Tub bov**

Lachrymal duct (Dachrocystitis)

With watery discharge **Iodum**

With creamy discharge **Pulsatilla**

Chronic, causing blockage **Silica**

THE EAR

The external ear is covered with skin, which is modified in the canal. Chronic ear conditions should therefore be considered as one part of a generalised skin condition and treated with this in mind. Chronic conditions may require a constitutional remedy.

Always check for mites.

EXTERNAL EAR

Inflammation

Pinna (Ear flap)

Itchy, red, dry, worse for bathing **Sulphur**

Thickened, red and itchy **Rhus tox**

Scaly surface, crusty around edges **Tellurium**

Chronic, thickened **Calc carb**

Extreme itch, chilly animal **Psorinum**

Dandruff of tiny white flakes **Arsen alb**

Great heat, sudden onset **Belladonna**

Ear canal (Otitis externa)

Homeopathy works very well in conjunction with topical ear medication. In the long term it can reduce or eliminate the need for medication.

As a general cleansing and healing agent Calendula lotion can be helpful.

Symptoms to note include the type of discharge and other features such as swelling and ulceration.

Discharges

Red, itchy, with purulent discharge **Sulphur**

Green, esp. left, after vaccination **Thuja**

Foul smelling discharges, very painful to touch **Hepar sulph**

Thick, bloody, yellow/green discharges **Merc sol**

Moist honey coloured, sticky, left sided **Graphites**

Bland green/yellow discharges, right sided **Pulsatilla**

Purulent and/or bloody **Rhus tox**

Scanty, acrid, chilly dog **Arsen alb**

Yellow offensive discharges, right side (or right to left) **Lycopodium**

Purulent, sudden pain and redness **Belladonna**

THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

Symptoms from conditions of the pituitary, adrenal and thyroid glands.

This is an area where a diagnosis of which organ is affected is essential.

Such diseases can be difficult to treat homeopathically and often require a constitutional prescription, hence are the domain of the qualified veterinary homeopath. Nevertheless, the use of sarcodes and low potency remedies can be helpful. With sarcodes, a general rule is that potencies below 7c stimulate the gland, and above 7c suppress its function, hence common potencies include 6x and 30c.

POSTERIOR PITUITARY GLAND

Diabetes insipidus

Ascites and general oedema, excess thirst and urination, ravenous appetite **Uranium nit**

Increased thirst, polyuria, poor appetite **Alfalfa** Low potency or material doses

Low potency sarcodes **Posterior pituitary ADH** (antidiuretic hormone)

ANTERIOR PITUITARY AND ADRENAL GLANDS

Overactivity (Cushings Disease, Hyperadrenocorticism)

General remedy for Cushing's disease: Mixture of **ACTH** 30c and **Quercus robur** 30c given twice daily.

High potency sarcodes **Pituitary gland Adrenal gland Cortisone** 30c

Also indicated **Uranium nit** 30c

A common constitutional remedy is **Natrum mur**

Underactivity (Addison's disease, Hypoadrenocorticism)

Low potency sarcodes **Pituitary gland Adrenal gland ACTH Cortisone** 6x

A common constitutional remedy is **Natrum mur**

THE GENERALS

APPETITE, FOOD AND DRINK

Appetite increased

Ravenous, with emaciation **Abrotanum Iodum Arsen iod**

Phosphorus Tub bov

At night **Lycopodium**

Greedy **Nux vomica Sulphur Calc carb**

Appetite poor ('wanting')

Intermittent **Pulsatilla**

Chronically poor **Tub bov**

Easily satisfied **Lycopodium**

Sniffs then refuses **Arsen alb**

Desires

Bread **Calc carb**

Eggs **Calc carb**

Faeces **Tub bov Calc carb Silica** (own **Nitric acid Veratrum alb**)

Fatty foods **Merc sol Nux vomica Sulphur**

Fish **Natrum mur Phosphorus**

Fruit **Arsen alb**

Unripe fruit **Medorrhinum**

Cold foods, ice **Pulsatilla**

Indigestible things (chalk, coal, earth) **Alumina Tub bov Silica**

Phosphorus Calc carb Calc phos Nitric acid

Milk **Tub bov Phos acid Rhus tox**

Oranges **Theridion Elaps**

Paper **Lac can**

Potatoes **Alumina**

Red peppers **Capsicum**

Rotten food **Sulphur**

Salt **Natrum mur Phosphorus Sulphur**

Smoked foods **Calc phos Tub bov**

Spices **Nux vomica Sulphur**

Sweets **Argentum nit Lycopodium**

Vinegar **Sepia**

Warm food **Lycopodium**

THE MENTALS

This chapter can be used in two separate ways. Firstly, the information can add to the local and general symptoms to expand the totality of the patient, and to identify their constitution. Secondly, the remedies can be used to lessen or relieve mental and emotional distress, including what would once have been described as 'behavioural problems'. In the latter situation, a high potency prescription is usually necessary; with such issues as anger or aggression, qualified professional help should be sought.

It is not possible to describe every form of emotional state presented by dogs, and there is inevitably some overlap, for instance between anger and aggression or anxiety and fear, but this chapter covers most of the remedies mentioned in previous chapters. Also it should be borne in mind that, for instance, most dogs appear affectionate and like company, so it is the extremes or contradictions that help us to match the patient to the remedy.

Affectionate

Self centred **Pulsatilla**

Over affectionate to everyone **Phosphorus**

Ailments from

This information, otherwise known as 'causality' can often provide a reliable pointer to the appropriate remedy. It also includes some local factors.

Anger **Chamomilla Colocynthis Nux vomica**

Suppressed anger **Staphysagria**

Grief

Grief in dogs can result from the loss of a human family member, including someone simply leaving the household, the loss of an animal of any species, a change of owner, or from a change in routine, particularly involving moving house.

Ignatia Natrum mur Pulsatilla Aurum met Causticum Lachesis

Phos acid Stramonium Conium

Disrupted suckling period **Lac can Carsinosin**

Vaccination **Thuja Sulphur Antimonium tart Pulsatilla Silica**

Rabies vaccination **Lachesis Lyssin Stramonium**