

HOMEOPATHY IN PETS

What is homeopathy?

Homeopathic medicine is a **holistic method** using **natural substances to stimulate the body's natural healing process.**

The main principle is based on **'like cures like'**, or that a substance that is capable, in a toxic dose, of producing a set of symptoms is also capable, in much lower doses, of curing the same set of symptoms regardless of their perceived causes.

This then stimulates the body to heal itself by strengthening the immune system.

The **goal of Homeopathic Medicine is therefore 'cure' rather than 'alleviation' or 'suppression' of symptoms.** Remedies are often derived from a number of plants, animal materials and minerals, and combination remedies can be a combination of these ingredients.

How does it work?

As noted above, homeopathy is based on **'like cures like'**, or that a substance that is capable, in toxic doses of producing a set of symptoms is also capable, in much lower doses, of curing the same set of symptoms regardless of their perceived causes.

The manufacture of homeopathic medicines is based on the **'law of minimum dose'**, which holds that **the more diluted a homeopathic preparation is, the greater its effectiveness will be.**

Based on a variety of reasons, there has often been skepticism with regards to efficacy of homeopathic preparations by allopathically trained professionals, not least of which was that there was no clear understanding of the mode of action – especially when the dilutions were taken into consideration.

What is clear, however, is that the use of Homeopathic preparations has now been **scientifically proven in trials, both in the human and veterinary fields.**

Can natural remedies be used with other medicines?

Although many 'pure' homeopaths will use only homeopathic preparations the products, especially the commercialized combination products can be used with other medications. **If not synergistic with other medications, they are at least additive resulting in an improved treatment outcome. They should form part of the 'total package' in an animal health arsenal.**

Combination homeopathy in pets

Classical homeopaths and those specially trained in homeopathy often give one remedy at a time. These can be used over a period of time and will be changed if the correct reaction is not noted.

For most **animal health professionals** however, **the use of combination medicines** which have been **specifically manufactured for sets of symptoms and conditions is the safest and most effective way to use homeopathic preparations.**

These preparations are made by using ingredients that are synergistic and are also manufactured under strict quality-control conditions.

These ranges, such as the **ECO-VET range are approved by a Regulatory Authority.** This gives the user or prescriber peace of mind that the **preparation complies with the relevant standards and has also been assessed by experts** prior to being made available.

When do I use natural remedies for my pets?

In the traditional usage homeopathic remedies were **mainly used in chronic conditions.** This usage is still valid, and many of the preparations are used very successfully to alleviate painful chronic conditions such as arthritis and anxiety.

In many of these cases they can **also be used to reduce the usage of allopathic medications that may have long-term negative side-effects** such as COX inhibitors, corticosteroids, or psychotropic medications.

As part of a **complete and holistic treatment protocol** it has been seen that **the use of homeopathic medications in acute conditions is extremely relevant as part of a complete treatment protocol.**

The use of these preparations **alongside the traditional allopathic medications** results in an **improved cure or survival rate.**

What results can I expect?

It must be noted that **no medicine is a 'golden bullet'** and that they all need to be used in a **total package of Veterinary care to get the best outcomes.**

It has been shown that homeopathic remedies **do start to work immediately, and that is why the outcomes when used in acute conditions, especially with other medications is so effective and the successes are seen acutely.**

In **chronic conditions** (e.g. Arthritis, anxiety) the condition has **normally been present for a while, and therefore the medication will sometimes take some time to get to full effect,** especially when used on its own. **A period of at least 2 weeks should be given to see these effects.**

What is also important is that, as with any treatment, **the correct diagnosis needs to be made and a recommendation of Veterinary consultation and guidance in using any therapy program is important.**

Have any questions? Chat to us!

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