

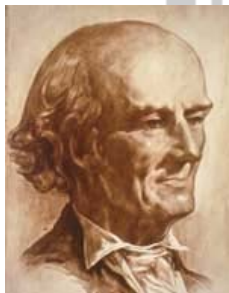
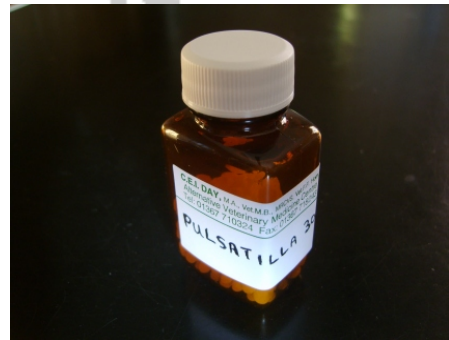
Homeopathy for Animals
ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE
Information Sheet A-WS141/09
Christopher Day - Veterinary Surgeon

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HOMEOPATHY FOR ANIMALS

History

Homeopathy (also spelt: homoeopathy, homœopathy) uses the principle discovered and developed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by Dr Samuel Hahnemann, in Saxony. In literal terms, the name means the treatment of disease using a substance which has the power to provoke similar symptoms when administered to a healthy body. What a substance can 'cause' or 'provoke' in health, it can cure in disease. The symptoms that a substance can induce are discovered by means of 'provings' - tests on healthy human beings. Hahnemann later developed the extreme dilutions which remain, to this day, a controversial area of homeopathic practice. In circa 1813, in Leipzig, Hahnemann lectured on the use of his medical system on animals. He stressed that the principles were the same as in humans.



Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann (1755 - 1843)

Boenninghausen continued to develop animal homeopathy (veterinary homeopathy), on his extensive estate in Westphalia. Numerous authors have kept the practice alive until, in modern times in the UK, George Macleod (1912 - 1995) was a very well-known veterinary homeopath and author.



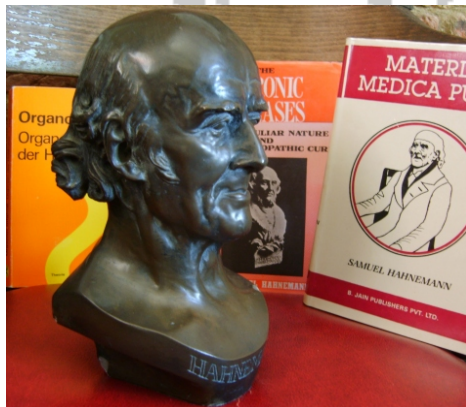
Baron Clemens Maria Franz von Bönninghausen (1785 - 1864)

In 1982 the British Association of Homœopathic Veterinary Surgeons (BAHVS) was formed. In 1984, veterinary courses commenced at the Royal London Homœopathic Hospital. In April 1986, the International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH) was founded in Luxembourg. Among other work, this organisation has produced a veterinary materia medica. The first veterinary qualification in the world (VetMFHom) was awarded by the Faculty of Homeopathy in 1987. That organisation created the post of Veterinary Dean in 1988, in order to oversee education and examinations in veterinary homeopathy and, in 1991, the first Veterinary Fellow of the Faculty (VetFFHom) was elected. In 2001, the first examination and qualification in basic (first-year) homeopathy was established [LFHom(Vet)]. It was also the year of the emergence of the first veterinary repertory.

Christopher Day, homeopathic vet and holistic vet, is Veterinary Dean to the Faculty of Homeopathy, was the Secretary of the BAHVS for more than 25 years and was twice Past-President of the IAVH.

Evolution of Homeopathy

From its very small beginnings, homeopathy was developed very extensively by Hahnemann, who wrote many books on the subject. The journey of development taken by Hahnemann makes very good reading. It is a real example of science-by-observation, analysed by his extremely acute mind. The 'Organon of Rational Medicine' is a must-read for any would-be scientist or philosopher.



Homeopathy did not stop developing with Hahnemann's death, however. So-called 'classical homeopathy', developed around the notion of giving a single remedy, is based on the totality of signs. Using multiple remedies (called 'complexes'), often with a 'clinical indication' also

developed widely, especially in Germany and France. Some practitioners like to use low potencies, some prefer high potencies. At the **AVMC**, we strive to use the best of all available methodologies, to suit the individual case presented, rather than to align with any single practice or ideology.

Hahnemann's original ideas on miasms (applicable in chronic disease analysis) have been massively extended by some authors. The extensive range of medicines (pharmacopœia) left by Hahnemann has grown over the years, as has our

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understanding of it. At the **AVMC**, we have developed several new medicines ourselves.

The list of available medicines now runs into several thousand, making ways of grouping remedies vital to our ability to comprehend and use them to best advantage. It also helps in analysis of complex cases. The miasmatic approach is of value in this, as is grouping remedies according to source materials (e.g. Kingdoms, Orders and Families). The teaching of homeopathy has developed accordingly.

While the homeopathy of today is highly developed from Hahnemann's original, with much greater scope, it has retained its strictly patient-centred approach and is used, to the best of our ability, to bring the patient back to health as rapidly, gently and completely as possible. Homeopathy differs from conventional drug medicine, in that it acts as a healing stimulus, rather than attempting directly to counteract symptoms. The only limit of capability is that imposed by the patient's body. Those who claim efficacy in every case are, therefore, blinding themselves to the truth. Nonetheless, the vast majority of past patients have proved themselves capable of [responding](#).

Practical Application

“It’s hard to remember Daisy as the very poorly kitten I brought to see you in 2003 – I wish you could see her now – fitter and livelier than all our other cats put together!” ([Case report](#))

Homeopathy is a holistic therapy, working with mind and body in the context of its environment and lifestyle and has been used in animals for at least 190 years. All species and all types of animals respond, from cats and dogs to farm animals, from horses and ponies to wild animals, from buffalo to goats, from birds and reptiles to fish. Organic farmers rely upon it as an effective, safe medicine which does not give rise to drug residues in meat, milk or eggs. Conventional farmers also make use of its benefits. Among its other benefits, of especial importance in farmed animals, is the fact that it cannot provoke 'antibiotic resistance' in bacterial populations. Furthermore, competition horses and dogs can be given homeopathy, without risk of falling foul of competition 'doping' rules. While the use of homeopathy can clearly enhance physical appearance and performance, by improving health, it cannot produce 'supernormal' performance, in the way that a drug can.

Homeopathic medicines are selected according to their ability to stimulate natural healing processes. The body dictates the reaction. Sometimes, usually heralding a good response, there may be a temporary 'therapeutic aggravation' of local or superficial symptoms. This is explained on a dedicated page on [aggravations](#). Another common finding is [Hering's Law](#).

The [homeopathic consultation](#) process is more complex than the usual veterinary consultation. It can take a long time, depending upon the complaint from which the patient suffers. It involves the vet in discovering a great deal of information, not

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just from clinical examination but also from the owner. Likely questions may include details of background, lifestyle, environment, demeanour, character, likes, dislikes, fears, diet, household & family details and responses to various external influences. Homeopathic principles demand a rigorous, meticulous and detailed approach to any patient's problem.

The AVMC accepts veterinary homeopathic referrals (veterinary homeopathy referrals)

In individual animals, many chronic and refractory diseases can respond, where conventional medication may have failed. Injuries and acute illnesses also respond. In groups, herds or flocks of animals, in-water medication can treat large numbers of animals safely, easily, cheaply and effectively.

The type of conditions that are commonly presented to the AVMC for homeopathic treatment are: alopecia, [CDRM](#), [DJD](#), [OCD](#), spondylosis, hip dysplasia, ruptured cruciate ligament, cruciate ligament damage (anterior cruciate), sprain, arthritis, [pain control](#), allergy, atopy, allergic bowel disorders, allergic skin disorders, urticaria, pyoderma, miliary dermatitis (miliary eczema), ophthalmia, [canine epilepsy](#), [cancer](#), eczema, itchy dog, colitis, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), chronic diarrhoea, poor condition, corneal ulcer, non-healing wounds, non-healing fractures (non-union fracture), encephalitis, meningitis, tendon and ligament injuries, crib biting, windsucking, gastric ulcer, chronic cough, conjunctivitis, otitis (ear problems), anal gland problems, abscesses, interdigital cysts, behavioural problems, [auto-immunity](#) (autoimmunity), eosinophilic granuloma, lick granuloma, [dry eye](#) (keratitis sicca), sinusitis, spavin, shaker syndrome, chorea, aortic embolism, eosinophilic myositis, paralysis, vestibular syndrome (canine stroke), rain scald, ringbone, sidebone, pedal osteitis, [head shaking](#) (head-shaking, headshaking), [sarcoids](#), itchy horse, proud flesh, [Cushings Disease](#) (Cushing's), [kissing spines](#), wobbler syndrome, itchy pony, chronic infections, [colic](#), viral diseases, [periodic ophthalmia](#) ([moonblindness](#), moon blindness, recurrent ophthalmia, ERU, recurrent uveitis), [navicular disease](#), [laminitis](#), [sweet itch](#) (sweetitch), [COPD](#), asthma and [mud fever](#) (see [outcome study](#)).

Species treated by the AVMC include: horses, ponies, goats, donkeys, cats, dogs, cattle, pigs, sheep, llamas, alpacas, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, lizards, terrapins, tortoises, snakes, raptors, poultry (domestic fowl), cage birds, budgies, canaries, budgerigars, parrots, parakeets, macaws, birds of prey (raptors).

The AVMC also offers an on-line [Video Consultation Service](#), for those who are unable to travel to see us, whether through illness, disability, distance or foreign residence. This is a truly international option, allowing access to our services from home, anywhere in the world.

Homeopathy, far from being a 'folksy' and weird system of esoteric medicine, has 'gained its spurs' and its use is increasing rapidly, as people realise what it has to offer, whether as a 'first-aid', 'first-line' or 'last resort' medicine. Skin disease,

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arthritis, [auto-immune disorders](#), bowel disease, [epilepsy](#), heart problems and behavioural conditions are frequent callers but many other diseases respond (refer to '[species](#)' page). Until modern times, no research had been conducted to establish its effectiveness. This has now been remedied. Research papers are appearing, showing the widespread benefits of this simple, safe and effective therapy.

Chris Day, homeopathic vet and holistic vet, has used homeopathy in veterinary practice since 1972 and on himself from long before that. He is very willing to share experiences, understanding and ideas with veterinary colleagues, veterinary students and animal owners.

Compatibility

Homeopathic medication can be damaged by frost, excessive heat, sunlight and close proximity to [Aromatherapy](#) oils. Its effects in the body can be reduced by intercurrent aromatherapy, steroids (cortisone or corticosteroids) and anti-inflammatory drugs. It is capable of careful and informed integration with [Acupuncture](#), but **these two therapies may clash**, if not properly integrated.

The Remedies

There are several thousand homeopathic medicines available. With them, homeopathy is able to treat infectious diseases, chronic diseases, acute diseases, injuries and behavioural disorders. Even some cases of cancer defy a grave prognosis. While cancer is not easily mastered, there are encouraging numbers of recorded cases of complete recovery from some of the worst forms. It even enjoys widespread use in disease prevention, in place of vaccination. For an insight into the capabilities in each species, click the required species on the [species page](#). It is worth giving some examples of easy home treatments (**first-aid**) here, however, since their use does not demand the full rigours of homeopathic knowledge and understanding. Most of these are easily available in pharmacies and health shops all over the UK (usually in a **6c** potency but also sometimes available in a **30c** potency).

It is difficult to encounter homeopathy without meeting the subject of [nosodes](#). The **AVMC** is willing to advise on nosodes, on the basis of over 37 years experience. We are also able to supply nosodes for farm use and for dog, cat or horse and pony application. For the treatment of animals not under our care, we require communication with the attending veterinary surgeon. For the supply of [nosodes for protection](#), we need to see the client or to arrange a telephone consultation or [video consultation](#), to discuss and explain things clearly, to prevent misunderstandings or possible mishaps.

First-Aid Homeopathic medicines:

- ***Aconitum*** - This remedy treats shock, both mental and physical and will also assist in the treatment of acute febrile conditions, such as viral or bacterial diseases.

Any sudden-onset disturbance of equilibrium may be helped by *Aconitum*.

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- **Apis** - Urticarial swellings, oedema and fluid in joints will often respond to this remedy, apart from its benefits for burns and scalds or for insect bites and stings.
- **Arnica** - Arnica is homeopathy's great injury remedy. Its use will minimise pain and bruising and will speed healing.
- **Belladonna** - High fevers with head, ear, throat or eye pain are especially helped by this remedy. Very painful abscesses may also respond.
- **Bryonia** - Arthritis, rheumatism, pneumonia or mastitis, when the animal refuses to move, are the main areas of use of Bryonia.
- **Calendula** - Used as a lotion, this remedy speeds healing of cuts, grazes or open wounds, in addition to helping the animal to fight septic infection of such injuries.
- **Cantharis** - This medicine helps most cases of cystitis.
- **Carbo veg.** - This is nick-named the 'corpse reviver', on account of its ability to help patients in collapse.
- **Caulophyllum** - The birth process, at all stages whether before, during or after, is helped by Caulophyllum.
- **Chamomilla** - Teething in young dogs and trouble from teething in any species will benefit from use of this remedy.
- **Colocynthis** - Colic in horses would be the most common first-aid use of Colocynthis.
- **Euphrasia** - With the folk-name 'eyebright', this remedy helps many eye conditions, including conjunctivitis from cold winds. It also helps in cases of sneezing and nasal allergy. It is also useful as a first-aid treatment for eye ulcers.
- **Glonoinium** - First-aid remedy for heat stroke or heat distress (the **AVMC** uses a selected combination of remedies, for ill-effects of heat and heat stroke. Client reports are very satisfactory).
- **Hamamelis** - Bleeding from wounds and orifices would indicate Hamamelis, in many cases.
- **Hepar sulph.** - This is nick-named the 'homeopathic antibiotic', so effective is it in helping patients to fight septic, purulent infections.
- **Hypericum** - Use this remedy whenever there is a painful graze or damage to tissues rich in nerve endings (e.g. toes and tail).

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- **Ledum** - Use this whenever puncture wounds occur, from whatever injury. There are reputed anti-tetanus properties in addition to its ability to help such wounds heal correctly, from the depths outwards.
- **Nosodes** - These are remedies made from diseases or disease material (e.g. discharges, tissues, secretions, excretions). For a fuller account of [nosodes](#), [click here](#).
- **Nux vomica** - If an animal has stolen too much rich food or has had access to poisons, Nux vomica should help recovery from the resultant intoxication. It may also help cases of constipation and is a useful first-aid treatment in cases of 'prolapsed intervertebral disc' in dogs.
- **Rhus tox.** - This suits most cases of rheumatism and arthritis, that are worse for first movement but limber up.
- **Ruta** - Ligaments, tendons and other fibrous tissues are the main areas of benefit of this remedy.
- **Silica** - Helps the body to drive out foreign bodies, e.g. grass seeds. The power of this remedy, way beyond this simple capability, is evidence of the power of [crystals](#).
- **Symphytum** - Symphytum treats bone injuries of any type, speeding healing. In cases of bone fracture, Symphytum will speed healing and stimulate a better repair. Non-union fractures will also generally respond.
- **Urtica** - This remedy treats nettle rash (urticaria) and helps the flow of milk from the mammary gland.

Chris Day has been actively involved in homeopathic research (clinical research). He has also written extensively and taught worldwide.

The Law

The [Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966](#) restricts the treatment of animals (other than your own) with homeopathy, by anyone other than a fully qualified vet. Qualified homeopaths who treat humans are not legally able to treat animals, unless they have a veterinary qualification (MRCVS).

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