

Homeopathy for Parrots
ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE

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HOMEOPATHY FOR PARROTS

AVIAN HOMEOPATHY

In our modern world we have seen devastating advances in science, which have really only occurred since World War Two. This scientific explosion has revolutionised agriculture, medicine, travel, food, living comfort, leisure, in fact every walk of life.

However, it appears that it has not been without cost. Much of the progress in every field has involved the manufacture and use of chemicals. Genetic engineering and nuclear technology have also appeared. This trend has not been without its critics and now we see rapidly accelerating environmental damage, on an unprecedented scale. This has evoked a reaction which we rejoice in calling the 'Green' movement.

Among the many facets of the 'Green' reaction has been an increasing interest in traditional standards and proven methods in all walks of life, not least in medicine, hence the burgeoning popularity of natural medicine and, in particular, homeopathy. One of the greatest advantages of [homeopathy](#) in birds is the total lack of side-effects, allowing us to prescribe as we see fit, with no dangers of the drastic idiosyncratic reactions, which can occur with the use of conventional drugs.

Homeopathy works by stimulating the body's own ability to heal itself. This ability has long been undervalued and can result in astonishing cures, where none was thought possible, even in many cases of disease considered without question to be incurable in conventional medical terms. How does it work?

Homeopathy is prescribed according to a system developed by Samuel Hahnemann, in the eighteenth century. In its modern form, it takes into account a truly holistic approach, considering such factors as the patient's build, temperament, demeanour, behaviour, likes and dislikes, disease symptoms, what

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climatic and other factors affect those symptoms and in what way, not to mention such factors as family history, environment, management, diet etc. It is truly a study of mind, body and environment in the genuine spirit of holism.

Samuel Hahnemann found that Cinchona Bark, the material which gives us Quinine, was able to produce in a healthy human body, his own, symptoms and signs indistinguishable from malaria. He was clearly astounded by this discovery, since Quinine was well-known, even then, for its *curative* effect on malaria. He tested this finding on other healthy human volunteers, male and female and found the results repeatable. He formulated the theory of 'Cure by Similar' and tested the hypothesis on over sixty substances. We now have several thousand available to us. These substances are drawn from the animal, vegetable and mineral worlds and all share one thing in common; they are able to cure disease which is similar in many respects to what symptoms they can cause or evoke in a healthy body under test.

The next incredible discovery by Hahnemann was what makes homeopathy so totally safe. He found he could dilute and dilute the substances by a special and exacting method which would make them not only *safer* but also *more effective*. This serial dilution process he therefore called 'potentisation' and the number of dilutions undergone became known as the *potency* of the medicine. Most of these potencies are so dilute that they transcend the point at which we lose the last molecule mathematically. For this reason conventional medical science rejects homeopathy out-of-hand. However, modern enlightened physicists appear to have no conceptual problem with this phenomenon and some are even working on ways to explain clearly how such extreme dilutions can not only be effective but have increasing efficacy as the dilution process goes on.

Enough of such heavy philosophical and scientific thoughts. To what use can homeopathy be put? Is it effective for animals and birds in general and parrots in particular? Veterinary homeopathy is useful in all species and in all disease, both acute and chronic, infectious or non-infectious. If the body possesses a healing mechanism to be brought to bear, homeopathy, correctly applied, can stimulate it. Hahnemann discussed, around 1813, its use in animals and it has been successfully and widely used ever since. I have been using it on myself since the age of twelve or so and on my patients for the last twenty one years. It has proved so beneficial to my patients that I increased its use until I now only practice homeopathy and other forms of natural medicine.

The method of application of vet homeopathy is a combination of logic, method and intuition. The patient is studied as deeply and widely as possible as above. The remedies are learnt as well as possible (frequent reference to the many available books fills the gaps). The disease is 'matched' to a remedy and, finally, the obstacles to recovery must be sought out and eliminated. Such bars to cure

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may be found in diet, environment, lifestyle, management etc., not just in the sick bird itself. This latter approach makes a lot of sense and, although unlikely to raise argument from any quarter, is too-little practised in any form of medicine, for all animals, ranging from humans to the 'lowliest' of species.

Here, then, is avian homeopathy in a nutshell. What can it cure? Birds can be brought in with all manner of injuries, for which 'acute' prescribing such as *Arnica*, the great trauma remedy or *Hypericum* the great nerve injury or pain remedy can prove invaluable and produce a rapid turn-around in wellbeing and health. Beak or claw injuries benefit greatly from *Hypericum*, as would damaged nerves as a result of 'pulled' or sprained legs or wings. If injury is so severe as to damage circulation, *Secale* would be of benefit in reducing the risk of limb or toe loss. Sinusitis can be a very difficult and serious problem and here again, homeopathy can often help. Remedies such as *Silica*, *Pulsatilla*, *Hepar sulphuris*, *Hydrastis* or *Mercurius* may have a part to play, depending upon the symptoms shown and the character of discharges. If there is a wound, *Calendula* lotion can aid healing in a seemingly miraculous way, whereas, if it is infected, wound healing will still be helped by *Calendula* lotion but with the aid of *Hepar sulphuris* orally. If enteritis (diarrhoea) is noticed, there are many remedies from which to choose, according to signs and symptoms. If the bird becomes thirsty with diarrhoea then we may think of *Arsenicum* or *Mercurius*. If the bird is not thirsty and the faeces are variable, consider *Pulsatilla*. If there is debility, *Phosphoric acid* or *Cinchona* would be high on the list. If there is an infectious disease, then *Aconitum* will help in the early stages, followed by a remedy to suit signs and symptoms. Do not be alarmed by the **name** of the disease since, in by far the majority of cases, the correctly chosen homeopathic remedy will effect a cure, even if the name cannot be found. Even Psittacosis (Chlamydiosis) should not be considered hopeless ([zoonosis](#)). I have never had cause knowingly to treat the dreaded PBFV virus* but see no reason why correctly applied homeopathic principles should not produce a result. This disease appears to attack the immune system but FIV (a viral immunodeficiency disease of cats) can respond, in the early stages, to homeopathy. Why should not an immunodeficiency disease of birds? For all infectious diseases, a *nosode* can be made. A [nosode](#) is an extreme dilution of disease material. This can act in a protective capacity against specific infectious diseases to in-contact birds and as an aid to cure in infected birds. The principle has been shown to work well in many cases of infectious disease in many species.

Feather-Plucking itself is a very complex disease with dietary, environmental and heavy psychological components. We are fortunate to have had great success in treating this troublesome disease, in a great many birds, by the homeopathic method. Remember, it is a truly holistic method, taking into account mind, body and environment and depending upon that information to select a remedy to achieve a cure.

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Because of the exhaustive nature of the work of diagnosis, a consultation with a single animal or bird can take a long time. This can render the first consultation quite expensive.

Veterinary homeopathy, then, is an absolutely safe, effective if not somewhat complex system of medicine, as suitable for treating birds now as it was for treating humans in the eighteenth century. Its revival is based not just upon a public revulsion of things modern, artificial and chemical but upon a truly pragmatic acceptance of its very real benefits to all species.

Christopher Day is a veterinary surgeon using natural holistic medicine including homeopathy and has been practising for over twenty one years. He is a holistic vet and specialist homeopathic vet. He treats all kinds of animals both at his clinic and, for the larger species, a great many miles from home. He has written several books on the subject and is the Secretary of the British Association of Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons. Amongst his other duties he is Veterinary Dean to the Faculty of Homeopathy in London at which he organises courses for veterinary surgeons. He also teaches abroad and has regular trips to Dublin and USA. He is actively involved in clinical research but his greatest love, however, is his very busy alternative medicine practice.

See also: [Avian Influenza](#)

Christopher Day (veterinary homeopath) - November 1993 (updated May 1999)

****Since publishing this article, we have treated cases of PBFD, with success in some cases.***

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