

Homeopathic Remedies & Pets

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In its simplest definition, **homeopathy** is based on the premise that “like cures like”. It is **defined as a system of treating disease by administering**, in minute quantities, **substances that would in large doses to a healthy body, produce symptoms similar to those of the disease being treated**. For example, an onion (*Allium Cepa*) can produce symptoms in a healthy body such as burning eyes and a runny nose. However, the homeopathic remedy *Allium Cepa* (onion) can also cure a body suffering from these very symptoms (hay fever, allergies, etc.).

Animals treated by homeopathy emerge from illness stronger and fitter, since their bodies rather than a synthetic agent have corrected the disease. Therefore, the substance administered triggers a healing response in the body, enabling its own immunity to engage, without the pain-masking attributes or undesirable side-effects of drugs.

Homeopathic remedies are derived from a multitude of sources such as plants, minerals, metals, and even some poisons which have been used medicinally for generations. After the raw material of the remedy has been prepared, it is formed into a tablet or granule by a process of serial dilution and succession (vigorous shaking in a solution of alcohol and water). The diluted remedies are described as being ‘potentized’, in recognition of the dynamic healing power they can stimulate.

Homeopathic remedies are tested on people, not animals. Under supervision, groups of people take safe doses, repeated over a period of time, until a range of symptoms emerges. Additional information on the action of many homeopathic remedies has been gathered from clinical experience for over two hundred years. All the information is recorded precisely in two types of homeopathic reference books: the *Materia Medica*, and the *Repertory*, as well as on computer. This information is then used by homeopathic practitioners to prescribe a remedy for a patient with the same symptoms, according to the ‘Law of Similars’—that which makes sick shall heal.

There is much precision involved in testing remedies and prescribing them. Collective experience reinforces the understanding of their curative action and, because of the way in which they are prescribed, they are not made redundant (as are many chemical drugs) by ‘new or drug-resistant’ bacteria and viruses.

Because homeopathy treats the individual and not just the disease, it resolves everything from behavioural issues, chronic illnesses, auto-immune deficiencies, skin conditions, arthritis, and post-operative trauma, to palliative care and bereavement.

Remedies can be administered in a number of ways. Pellets can be crushed and sprinkled onto an animal’s tongue. It can be made into a liquid form and syringed into their mouths as well. With large animals (such as horses, cattle, and sheep) it can be added to their drinking water or sprayed into the nostrils, rectum, or any mucus membrane. It has no adverse taste so you may find an animal will lick it off the spoon.

A homeopathic consultation or constitutional consultation for chronic illnesses includes an in-depth case-taking procedure during which all past physical, mental, and emotional history will be incorporated into presenting symptoms. This initial consultation takes between an hour to an hour and a half, and lays the foundation for continuous research into the individual’s case on the part of the homeopath to decide on the right remedy. The last part of the consultation includes a discussion on preventative healthy care for your pet.