



# *Homeopathy for Animals*

## **Origins of Homeopathy**

Homeopathy is a medical science based on experiments done by a German physician, Samuel Hahnemann, in the late 18th century. Through his research Hahnemann found that substances, when taken in large doses by healthy people, have a tendency to cause symptoms similar to those healed by that same substance when taken in smaller doses by ill people. For example, a preparation of the plant Cinchona was used widely at the time to treat malaria. When Hahnemann ingested large doses of Cinchona, he experienced symptoms similar to people suffering from malaria. He and his volunteers found this to be true of other medicinal substances of the time. Their findings were summarized in the phrase, “like cures like,” and homeopathy, meaning “similar suffering,” was born. Over the next several decades Hahnemann and others characterized the symptom profiles of hundreds of plant, animal and mineral substances. These summaries, compiled into a *Materia Medica*, include changes on all levels: physical, mental and emotional.

## **Homeopathic Preparations**

Once Hahnemann discovered how to choose a substance for his patients, by matching symptom profiles, he needed to determine the best means of dosing. Through his research he found that the most effective preparation with the fewest side effects was not a straight dose or even a tincture (e.g. herb extract). Rather, he made tens and hundreds of serial dilutions, with forceful shaking (succussion) between each dilution step; this process is called potentization. These preparations are often so dilute that some of them no longer contain any physical particles of the original substance. How do such dilute preparations work? Homeopathic theory postulates that it is the vibrational electromagnetic information of the original substance that is stored in the potentized remedy. This then acts upon the electromagnetic field of the patient to effect healing.

## **How to Give the Remedy**

Homeopathics for animals are typically in the form tiny pellets embedded with the potentized solution, dispensed in an amber glass vial with a black cap. Pour just enough pellets into the cap to barely cover the bottom; this is called a monolayer (one layer of pellets). Then pour this anywhere in the mouth. To preserve the vibration of the medicine, the pellets should not be touched with your own hands or even a metal spoon. Deliver the remedy directly from the cap into your pet’s mouth. Allow at least 20 minutes between giving the remedy and other oral items, such as food, other medicine, or treats. (Water is okay.) Store the remedy in a cool, dry, dark place away from appliances, stereos, magnets, and strong odors.

## **The Homeopathic Interview**

During the homeopathic interview you will be asked detailed questions, including information not only about the current illness, but also about any past illnesses, your pet’s personality, habits, preferences, and many other aspects of who your pet is and how he or she responds to life’s challenges. Such detail is necessary to choose that remedy which is most similar in every respect. We look forward to helping your furry friend!

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