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Homeopathy for Pets and their People

By Bonnie Heidbrak RPh, MBA, RMT, CCH, RSHom(NA)

Homeopathy can be a great healing modality not only for pets but also for their people as well. There are a growing number of people, including veterinarians and doctors, who are learning about homeopathy as an alternative to drugs. In fact, I learned about homeopathy from a homeopathic veterinarian that saved the life of my Siamese cat, Roger, many years ago. I had been to many veterinarians, including specialty veterinarians, over a period of several months that practiced using conventional medicines, none of which provided any help to Roger. Roger, who had stopped eating for some unknown reason, had lost 10 lbs and was at death's door. Finally, in desperation, I took Roger to a homeopathic veterinarian. This was a huge step for me because as a pharmacist I had been trained in the conventional medical system. This woman listened to me, observed Roger and his interactions with me, and asked all kinds of non traditional questions. She then gave Roger a remedy, just two tiny pellets, and told me to call the next day. I have to say I was skeptical, to say the least, but the next day Roger starting eating. I was amazed. Roger lived a healthy and wonderful for another 8 years. After this experience, I started seeing a homeopath for my own health issues and I have found that homeopathy transformed my life too. That is why I became a homeopath. Now, Roger's story is remarkable and results are not always as rapid

as those we gratefully experienced. But homeopathy is a wonderful healing modality.

So what is homeopathy? Homeopathy is a 200-year-old system of medicine that was known to the ancient Greeks and later refined by a German physician by the name of Samuel Hahnemann. Homeopathy is derived from the Greek work “homoios” which means like or similar. It is based on the philosophy that “like cures”. This means that if a substance should cause a certain set of symptoms in a healthy being, then that same preparation may be used to cure a person/animal suffering from similar symptoms.

Homeopathy regards the symptoms as the body’s attempt to restore balance (homeostasis). Using the totality of symptoms, a remedy will be chosen that matches the total symptom picture and supports the symptoms rather than opposing or suppressing them. The homeopath does not ignore the existence any immediate causes, such as injury, infection, or other trauma, but looks more deeply at how the person or animal is attempting to deal with this problem. The idea is to give a remedy that will stimulate the immune system or vital force, reminding the body how to heal itself.

Another important principle in homeopathy is that each being (person or animal) is unique and that they each manifest illness in a slightly different way. So that two beings with the same illness will not receive the same remedy. Another important tenant in homeopathy is that the being is treated, not the disease.

Homeopathic remedies are derived from animals, plants or mineral sources, which unlike powerful drugs; do not produce side-effects. The use of conventional drugs and preparations often come with risk of side effects, and, in some cases, the “cure” is worse than the problem. In addition, homeopathic remedies are diluted and prepared according Hahnemann’s principles, in stages to arrive at ‘potencies’ to produce the desired benefit without toxicity. Another

premise of homeopathy called minimum dose, means that the best results are realized by using least amount of the remedy in order to obtain the needed effects.

The greatest challenge in using homeopathy with pets is that they cannot tell us their symptoms, so the observation and awareness of the owner and/or homeopath are key in determining their symptoms, their individual differences, and how they have changed since becoming ill. Of course this is also where working with an animal communicator can be of great benefit. Because the animal communicator will be able find out directly from the animal what is happening with them.

After a remedy is given, the homeopath will continually follow up with the person or animal and evaluate any changes that occur. In this manner, the homeopath is able to guide the recovery toward health over the weeks or months necessary for the body to return to a balanced state.

In summary, homeopath is an all encompassing modality for healing animals and their people. Animals and their people often need to be treated simultaneously, pets can become out of balance because they are trying to support their people during illnesses and traumas and, people do the same with their pets.

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