

What is Animal Homeopathy?

Animal Homeopathy operates on the same principle as human homeopathy; it follows Hahnemann's principle of *similia similibus curentur* which translates into "like cures like". What can produce symptoms can be used to support the body to relieve symptoms. It is a complementary therapy and may be used alongside veterinary prescribed medicines and other alternative therapies.

Remembering of course that if an animal is in distress or pain it must be seen by a vet. Homeopathy is gentle on the body and individualised to the animal for their specific symptoms and energy level. A remedy is made of a variety of materials and substances which I will discuss at a later date.

Commercial Use

You may have read last year's controversy about a pet health course being subsidised under the Education system – this did involve Animal Homeopathy. What wasn't said was that the course was also for commercial use. Fonterra offer a premium for organic milk – a number of dairy farmers have turned to Homeopathic remedies for their production animals. Homeopathic remedies do not leave a residue in the milk and the production down time is shorter with homeopathy. Scientific studies have shown that they have the same efficiency with addressing mastitis as conventional medicine.

Why I got into it

The reason I studied Animal Homeopathy and have moved into practicing was initially, our now 11 year old blue heeler. At 3 she was diagnosed with either epilepsy or a brain tumour. Neither could be confirmed without an expensive MRI. As we wanted a good quality of life for our girl we chose not to go the conventional way and found a qualified animal homeopath. So for the past 8 years her epilepsy has been managed with homeopathy with none of the potential side effects of the medicine. Her epileptic fits a very few and far between and a lot milder.

Consultation

When I see an animal for the first time I need to understand the whole animal, physical, mental and emotional. I need to understand what makes them an individual and the specific traits particular to the issue and how that presents in the animal. I need to look at the whole animal not just the symptoms. There are many remedies for one specific issue but there will be one that specifically suits. As a very simple example in human terms, two people may be suffering from the flu but one may feel cold – the other hot; a different remedy would be needed.

Hahnemann

Samuel Hahnemann is the father of Classical Homeopathy. He was practicing medicine in Germany over 200 years ago and became concerned that the medicine he was prescribing was actually making his patients worse. This was completely against the Hippocratic Oath he had taken.

He gave up medicine because of this and began translating technical books. He came across a medical statement, "*That quinine cured malaria because it was astringent*". He disagreed with this as many things were astringent and they didn't cure malaria.

Hahnemann set about investigating what was specific about quinine. What he found when he took a large quantity of quinine was that he experienced the symptoms of malaria and the principle of Classical Homeopathy "like cures like" was born.