

Everyday homeopathy for animals

By Francis Hunter

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Francis Hunter was introduced to homeopathy by a medical colleague in the early 1980s and qualified as a VetMFHom from the Faculty of Homeopathy in London. He ran a mixed practice in Sussex but has recently retired, and now has a referral practice offering homeopathy and acupuncture. He was elected as a Fellow of the Faculty of Homeopathy in 1999.

He has already written two books on homeopathy for animals, but this current text takes the form of a comprehensive guide to using homeopathy in animals and is suited to the layperson as well as the novice homeopathic veterinarian, hence the simple terminology.

The first section deals with an introduction to the basic principles of homeopathy. It is important for the reader to understand the philosophy behind the choice of the remedy. The different methods of prescribing are discussed as well as the preparation of the medicines. The author makes it clear that the book is a guide to treatment and will make frequent references to the fact that many conditions need veterinary intervention or at least more advanced homeopathic treatment.

There follows a section on accident and first aid remedies, which can be invaluable. A selection of these medicines can form the basis of a first aid kit for home use.

There is a large general section devoted to common conditions found in all species of animals. The layout is clear and easy to follow, taking the form of a description of the condition on one page with the suggestions for treatment on the opposite page.

The following sections deal with the various

species of animals, covering horses, cattle, sheep and pigs as well as companion animals. There is also a section on exotic pets and birds with the commonly encountered disease problems described with relevant choices of remedies.

A primary *Materia Medica* covers a selection of medicines from Aconite to Urtica with clear descriptions of the plant or substance from which the remedy is made and the common uses for which it is indicated. There is a subsequent secondary *Materia Medica* comprising a further fifty or so remedies.

There is a list of further reading matter and contact addresses for homeopathic suppliers as well as useful contact addresses for homeopathic organizations in the UK and in other parts of the world.

In conclusion one can refer to an extensive general index followed by a remedy index.

Mr Hunter has produced a book that will appeal to all levels of expertise. His constant references to seek veterinary advice if necessary, serves to remind the reader that there is a lot more study required before one can become competent in practising homeopathy. However this book is suitable for the animal owner as well as the veterinarian wishing to take a close look at homeopathy and its application in general practice.

I can thoroughly recommend this as an excellent, practical and informative read.

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