

## Why Veterinary Homeopathy Matters in Animal Health Care in the USA

Homeopathy is a powerful tool, capable of healing without causing harm. No one knows this truth more than homeopathic veterinarians. Homeopathy offers a gentle and natural method of healing for animals. Conventional veterinary medicine faces many of the same challenges as conventional human medicine including antibiotic misuse/overuse, resistant superorganisms, adverse drug reactions, polypharmacy and challenges in elderly patients. Veterinary homeopathy dates back to the 1830s in Germany when it was first used by veterinarians who were the contemporaries of Samuel Christian Hahnemann, MD, the founder of homeopathy.

### Advantages of Veterinary Homeopathy

The homeopathic treatment of animals provides many distinct advantages when compared to the conventional methods. Homeopathy is:

- Gentle, natural, and non-invasive
- Less expensive
- Safe
- Environmentally sustainable
- Free from side effects
- Particularly suited to treatment of animal herds and wildlife
- Easy to administer
- Non-toxic

The late physician and former US senator, Royal S. Copeland, MD, who sponsored the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938, recognized the importance of including homeopathy in U.S. healthcare when he wrote:

“Physicians become homeopaths because homeopathy works better for most health problems than the techniques we learned in medical school.”

### Value of Animal Homeopathy

Animals are free from placebo bias. As far as we know, dogs, cats, horses, cows, goats and sheep are oblivious to the form of treatment they receive from humans. Animal responses are not placebo responses. Animals are sensitive to their environments and serve as sentinels of both disease and environmental toxins. Their reactions can alert us to environmental hazards before they affect humans. Animals are (literally) ‘canaries in the coalmine’ of our world. Their relatively short lifespans and intergenerational times make them ideal models to study both

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<sup>1</sup> Robins N. *Copeland's Cure: Homeopathy and the War between Conventional and Alternative Medicine*. Knopf Pub. NY 2005. <https://tinyurl.com/ycvt8v84>

course of disease, and response to therapy. Veterinary homeopathy, through acute and chronic illness, across a variety of animal species, has taught important lessons that verify and augment human medical care.

## Evidence Based Medicine

Thousands of high-quality studies and case reviews of homeopathy have been published in peer-reviewed medical journals including both *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments performed in the laboratory and in the field. Randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials, observational studies, clinical effectiveness research, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses have been published in both humans and animals.<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12</sup>

## Veterinary Homeopathy Research and Clinical Studies

Homeopathic medicine is prescribed on the basis of individual characteristics, which makes randomized controlled trials difficult, and largely unsuited to evaluating this modality. However, when these clinical trials yield positive results, it is crucially important that we pay close attention and inquire as to why. A summary of some of this research follows:

Clinical trials in dairy cows show significant reduction in the incidence of bovine mastitis, decreasing incidence from 47.5% to 2.5% in one study,<sup>13</sup> and from 42.8% to 7.1% in another.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Bell I. *Homeopathic Research References: Focus on Animal Studies*. Univ. of Arizona. July 9, 2011. <https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Homeopathy-Research-Listing.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Epstein S. *The Evidence Base for Veterinary Homeopathy*. Paper submitted to the American Veterinary Medical Association. 2013 <https://theavh.org/wp-content/uploads/Homeopathy-White-Paper.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Pitcairn R and S. *Natural Health for Dogs and Cats*. Rodale books, 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/yc5yadpp>

<sup>5</sup> Dupree G. *Homeopathy in Organic Livestock Production*. Acres USA. 2010 <https://www.acresusa.com/products/homeopathy-in-organic-livestock-production>

<sup>6</sup> Hamilton D. *Homeopathic Care for Cats & Dogs*. North Atlantic Books. 2010 <https://tinyurl.com/yc4rdf9b>

<sup>7</sup> Sheaffer CE. *Homeopathy for the Herd: A Farmer's Guide to Low-Cost, Non-Toxic Veterinary Care of Cattle*. Acres USA. 2003 <https://www.acresusa.com/products/homeopathy-for-the-herd>

<sup>8</sup> Lotfollahzadeh S, et al. Homeopathy and Foot and Mouth Disease in Cattle. *Homeopathy*. 2012. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22818233>

<sup>9</sup> Doehring et al. Efficacy of Homeopathy in livestock according to peer-reviewed publications from 1981 - 2014. *Veterinary Record* 2016; 179 (24): 628. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5256414/>

<sup>10</sup> Camerlink I, et al. Homeopathy as replacement to antibiotics in *E. coli* diarrhea in neonatal piglets. *Homeopathy*. 2010. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491609001246>

<sup>11</sup> Mathie RT, et al. Homeopathic prescribing for chronic conditions in equine veterinary practice in the UK. *Veterinary Record*. 2010. <https://tinyurl.com/ybz887of>

<sup>12</sup> Mathie RT, et al. Homeopathic prescribing for chronic conditions in Feline and Canine veterinary practice. *Homeopathy*. 2010. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491610000597>

<sup>13</sup> Day C. Nosodes for Prevention. *Int J Veterinary Homeopathy*; 1(15).

<sup>14</sup> Searcy R, Guajardo G. Papers on homeopathic research. *Amer Holistic Veterinary Med Associat Conference* 1994.

Studies demonstrate that homeopathy acts as a potent growth promoter in farm-raised swine. Treatment is effective either by administering it to pregnant sows,<sup>15</sup> or to growth retarded piglets.<sup>16</sup>

Multiple studies have demonstrated that homeopathy helps prevent complications during labor and delivery in cattle, pigs, and dogs.<sup>17,18</sup> Swine stillbirth mortality drops dramatically from 20% to 2.6% after the addition of homeopathic medicine to the drinking water of gestating sows.<sup>19</sup>

In one randomized placebo-controlled trial of 120 cows, homeopathic treatment improved conception rates, calving intervals, and calving percentage in a commercial dairy herd.<sup>20</sup>

The incidence of epidemic canine tracheobronchitis (kennel cough) and canine distemper outbreaks in kennels was reduced 97.9% via homeopathic treatment.<sup>21</sup> In one study more than 13,000 dogs were treated over a 3-year period, demonstrating a 62.6% reduction in incidence of canine distemper.<sup>22</sup>

Eighty percent of dogs and horses with Cushing's disease, previously failing conventional treatment, improved with homeopathic treatment.<sup>23</sup>

Homeopathy demonstrates benefits in many different veterinary conditions, but only a few have been studied and reported. Some of these include: prevention of hepatic toxicity in rats,<sup>24</sup> prevention of azo dye-induced hepatocarcinogenesis in mice,<sup>25</sup> resolution of babesiosis in dogs,<sup>26</sup> hepatoprotection against paracetamol induced liver damage in rats,<sup>27</sup> resolution of subclinical

<sup>15</sup> [Guajardo-Bernal, G. et al. Growth promoting effect of Sulphur in pigs. \*Br Homeopathic J\*; 85:15-21. <https://tinyurl.com/yb2eoj8d>](https://tinyurl.com/yb2eoj8d)

<sup>16</sup> Briones F. Effect of Barium carb, etc. on the weight of pigs with retarded growth. *Int J Veterinary Homeopathy*; 4(2), *Br Homeopathic J* 2002; 89 (2).

<sup>17</sup> [Day C. Control of stillbirths using homeopathy. \*Veterinary Record\* 1984; 114\( 216\). \[https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Day\\\_Stillbirths.jpg\]\(https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Day\_Stillbirths.jpg\)](https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Day_Stillbirths.jpg)

<sup>18</sup> [Day C. Clinical trials in bovine mastitis using Dystocia prevention. \*Proceedings of LMHI Congress, Lyon\* \(1985\). \[https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Bovine\\\_Mastitis.pdf\]\(https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Bovine\_Mastitis.pdf\)](https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Bovine_Mastitis.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> [Day C. \*ibid.\* \(1984\). \[https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Day\\\_Stillbirths.jpg\]\(https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Day\_Stillbirths.jpg\)](https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Day_Stillbirths.jpg)

<sup>20</sup> [Williamson AV, et al. A study using Sepia 200c given prophylactically post partum to prevent anetrus problems in the dairy cow. \*Br Homeopathic J\*; 80\(149\). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0007078505802261>](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0007078505802261)

<sup>21</sup> [Day C. Isopathic prevention of kennel cough. \*Int J Veterinary Homeopathy\*; 2\(57\). \[https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Kennel\\\_Cough.pdf\]\(https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Kennel\_Cough.pdf\)](https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Kennel_Cough.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Saxton J. Use of distemper nosode in disease control. *Int J Veterinary Homeopathy*; 15( 8).

<sup>23</sup> [Elliot M. Cushing's Disease. A new approach to therapy in equine and canine patients. \*Br Homeopathic J\*; 90 \(1\). <http://www.taranet.co.uk/resources/CushingsArticle.pdf>](http://www.taranet.co.uk/resources/CushingsArticle.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [Banerjee A, et al. Chelidonium majus 30C and 200C in induced hepato-toxicity in rats. \*Homeopathy\* 2010; 3\(99\):167-176. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491610000573>](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491610000573)

<sup>25</sup> [Bhattacharjee N, et al. Homeopathic drugs Natrum sulphuricum and Carcinosis prevent azo dye-induced hepatocarcinogenesis in mice. \*Ind J Biochem Biophys\* 2009; 46\(4\):307-18. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19788063>](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19788063)

<sup>26</sup> [Chaudhuri S, et al. Clinical management of babesiosis in dogs with homeopathic \*Crotalus horridus\* 200C. \*Homeopathy\* 2007; 96\(2\):90-4. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491607000197>](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491607000197)

<sup>27</sup> [Da Silva GH, et al. Hepatoprotective effect of Lycopodium clavatum 30CH on experimental model of paracetamol-induced liver damage in rats. \*Homeopathy\* 2015; 104\(1\): 29 - 35. <https://tinyurl.com/yeakrkmc>](https://tinyurl.com/yeakrkmc)

mastitis in dairy cows,<sup>28</sup> improved renal clearance and excretion kinetics of lead in rats,<sup>29</sup> improved memory functions and cerebral blood flow in memory-impaired rats,<sup>30</sup> atopic dermatitis in dogs,<sup>31</sup> anti-inflammatory effects in cultured mouse chondrocytes,<sup>32</sup> prevention of mastitis in dairy cows,<sup>33</sup> prevention and treatment of Foot and Mouth Disease in cattle,<sup>34</sup> increased removal torque and bone density surrounding titanium implants in rats,<sup>35</sup> reduction of voluntary ethanol intake in rats,<sup>36</sup> improved clinical management and reduced incidence of idiopathic epilepsy in dogs,<sup>37</sup> and the prevention and treatment of helminthiasis in sheep.<sup>38</sup>

## Conclusion

Numerous studies attest to homeopathy's value across a wide range of clinical conditions in veterinary medicine, improving the health of farm and domestic animals. Additionally, their positive responses entirely eliminate questions of placebo effects from homeopathy. Homeopathy is on the forefront and cutting edge of environmentally sustainable, safe and efficient care with applications in both individuals and large herds. Homeopathy is an important medical modality for every member of the animal kingdom, and by extension, equally important in the field of human health.

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<sup>28</sup> Egan J. Evaluation of a homeopathic treatment for subclinical mastitis. *The Veterinary Record* 1995;137(2):48. <https://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/137/2/48>

<sup>29</sup> Fisher P, et al. The influence of the homeopathic remedy plumbum metallicum on the excretion kinetics of lead in rats. *Human toxicology* 1987; 6(4): 321-324. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/096032718700600409>

<sup>30</sup> Hanif K, et al. Effect of homeopathic *Lycopodium clavatum* on memory functions and cerebral blood flow in memory-impaired rats. *Homeopathy* 2015;104(1): 24-28. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491614000800>

<sup>31</sup> Hill PB, et al. Pilot study of the effect of individualized homeopathy on the pruritus associated with atopic dermatitis in dogs. *The Veterinary Record* 2009;164(12): 364-370. <https://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/164/20/635.2>

<sup>32</sup> Huh YH, et al. Homeopathic *Rhus toxicodendron* treatment increased the expression of cyclooxygenase-2 in primary cultured mouse chondrocytes. (1476-4245 (Electronic)). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491613000611>

<sup>33</sup> Klocke P, et al. A randomized controlled trial to compare the use of homeopathy and internal teat sealers for the prevention of mastitis in organically farmed dairy cows during the dry period and 100 days post-calving. *Homeopathy* 2010; 99(2): 90-98. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491610000044>

<sup>34</sup> Lotfollahzadah S., *ibid* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22818233>.

<sup>35</sup> Spin-Neto R, et al. Homeopathic *Symphytum officinale* increases removal torque and radiographic bone density around titanium implants in rats. *Homeopathy* 2010; 99: 249-254. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491610000846>

<sup>36</sup> Sukul NC, et al. *Strychnos nux-vomica* extract and its ultra-high dilution reduce voluntary ethanol intake in rats. *J Alternative Complement Med* 2001; 7(2):187-93. <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/107555301750164280>

<sup>37</sup> Varshney JP. Clinical management of idiopathic epilepsy in dogs with homeopathic *Belladonna* 200C: a case series. *Homeopathy* 2007; 96(1): 46-48. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491606001408>

<sup>38</sup> Zacharias F, et al. Effect of homeopathic medicines on helminth parasitism and resistance of *Haemonchus contortus* infected sheep. *Homeopathy* 2008; 97(3): 145-151. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1475491608000477>

**About the author:**

*Todd Cooney DVM, was born and raised in Indiana, and received a BS in Wildlife Science, MS in Veterinary Parasitology, and DVM from Purdue University. He worked in private mixed practice, served as a veterinary officer in the US Air Force and Army, and also worked as a USDA veterinarian. After 22 years of conventional practice, he took Dr. Richard Pitcairn's Professional Course in Veterinary Homeopathy, which changed the way he viewed health and disease. Dr. Cooney began to use homeopathy in his practice right away, and now treats nearly all cases this way. He practices in northern Indiana, serves as an instructor for the Pitcairn Institute of Veterinary Homeopathy ([pivh.org](http://pivh.org)), and is the President of the Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy ([theAVH.org](http://theAVH.org)). He is also a regular contributor to articles in Integrative Veterinary Journal, Dogs Naturally Magazine, and presents seminars and webinars on holistic veterinary topics.*



### Conclusion from Americans for Homeopathy Choice

When properly manufactured and applied, homeopathic medicine plays an important role in the treatment of patients with major health problems across the globe. Homeopathy is inexpensive, effective, and inherently safe. When properly utilized, homeopathy makes it possible to make what already exists currently in the conventional health care system, more effective. For example, homeopathy makes it possible to avoid overuse of antibiotics, reserving antibiotics for when they are actually needed. Homeopathy also reduces the need to rely on dangerous and addictive painkillers in various situations including postoperatively, and after injury. Among many other benefits, homeopathy also helps reduce the incidence of polypharmacy.

Positive results such as these are achieved because homeopathy is a well-developed system of individualized medicine.. Those who use homeopathy consider it a “designer” medicine, customized to their specific needs.

We are concerned that the proposed Draft Guidance on homeopathy will undermine the right of individuals to choose homeopathy, and also undermine the very important role homeopathy has to play in addressing these health problems. This paper gives an example of how homeopathy can address serious problems in our current healthcare system - specifically the issue of ***highly addictive pain medications and their overuse***. It is important that FDA actions strengthen rather than undermine homeopathy so that it can meaningfully contribute to and support the American healthcare system.