

CONNECTEDNESS

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There is a proper approach or attitude one needs in order to be effective in a holistic livestock environment. The underlying truth that determines success is the understanding that there is a connectedness to all of life on the farm. John Muir said, "Everything is connected to everything else." The connectedness can be seen in the family, in the community, and in all the life on the farm. Unless the livestock owner understands the connectedness of all life, a healthy situation in the herd will not be realized

HARMONY

Veterinarians drive somewhere early every morning, either to a farm or to the office. Driving to work in the morning will usually provide an opportunity to realize how connected people are. Connectedness is illustrated when drivers meet at intersections. You arrive at a four-way stop sign, and the driver on the right waves you through. She/he smiles as he does so. Then you are courteous and smile at other drivers. At the next four-way, you smile and wave another through ahead of your car. Seeds of harmony are planted. Your entire day will likely go better because of the pleasant way it has begun.

While living in the city (at veterinary school), it struck me that people on the bus and the train hardly ever looked at each other, and hardly ever smiled. Country people aren't like that. Most country folks recognize that there is a connectedness to all of life. They understand that the seeds of harmony must come from each individual, and flow to their families and livestock and on to their neighbors.

VETERINARY EDUCATION

When communicating homeopathic principles, it always seems important to apologize for the veterinary profession. Homeopathic principles are complementary, alternative and holistic at the same time. Veterinarian students were not taught to be holistic in veterinary school. We were taught to look at the part and fix the part. It is like a machine. The leg is broke; you fix the leg and everything is "going to be fine". If the cow has an infection, you give an antibiotic and everything is "going to be fine". If the horse has colic, you treat the colic and everything is "going to be fine". That is the philosophy that is taught. So if your veterinarian has made some mistakes in the past, and disappointed you, I hope you give him/her some leeway. They were just not taught holistic principles. They can't help themselves.

RE-EDUCATION

After five years in practice, I became restless in my spirit. Giving Dexamethasone, DMSO, penicillin and aspirin wasn't fulfilling what I thought a veterinarian should be doing. Prescribing more antibiotics and steroids just didn't assuage this restlessness within. I started to look around for a better method of practice. A flyer for a homeopathic veterinary conference appeared on my desk. With the approval of my employer, I began mentoring relationships with George MacLeod, MRCVS and Henry Williams, MD.

At the time if you didn't know what to do for an animal you gave antibiotics and steroids. That same philosophy is prevalent today. I had worked day and night for five years but I questioned whether I was any further ahead. What did keep me going were my surgical successes. I found that homeopathic medicine presented a way to look at the connectedness of life and provide a truly holistic view.

GENUS EPIDEMICUS

Regardless of whether it is a herd of cows or a flock of chickens or herd of goats or a gaggle of geese, the entire group can be looked upon as one. They are all breathing the same air, eating the same food and are in dynamic interaction with each other. In viewing them as one, one specific remedy can be selected to treat them as one. Treat the herd as a whole; as one patient. Every speaker at Acres USA 2002 spoke about this link of connectedness. Soil fertility leads to plant and animal fertility which leads to human fertility.

HEALTHY SOILS – HEALTHY PEOPLE

At least 25% of the married couples in the USA are unable to have children. Why? I believe it is related to the lack of quality nutrition in their foods as a result of their individual choice but also as a result of the fertility of the soil and animals and plants living from the soil. Jerry Brunetti, Dan Skow, DVM and other teachers speak of about the link between soil fertility and human health. Fertile soil contains 4-5-6% organic matter and it is alive with many wonderful organisms including earthworms.

Fields of 1% humus on a conventional program can have as much as 6% after four years on an organic program. Healthy soils produce healthy livestock. Healthy soils produce healthy plants. Healthy plants and healthy livestock produce healthy people. A homeopathic veterinary practice allows us to cooperate with (not against) nature. Nature always bats last. A homeopathic veterinarian is not killing bacteria. His medicines are complementary, enabling the animals to be stronger and have more disease resistance.

The definition of the word antibiotic is -- against life. Homeopaths are criticized because the naysayer claims that homeopathic medicines have a placebo affect. People like their doctor or their veterinarian. They take the medicine prescribed and because of the positive relationship with their doctor they become well. There may be some truth in that. However, Cody the bull rarely sees me and didn't much like when his owners per my instructions began to treat his ruptured Peroneus Tertius muscle.

CODY THE BULL

Injuries occur during breeding especially in large bulls with many cows to service in seasonal herds. Ligament injuries are the most common, like the Collateral, and the Cruciate; a less common injury is the tearing of the Peroneus Tertius muscle. This injury allows the hock to be passively extended and the fetlock and stifle to be passively flexed.

Splinting to support the fetlock and *Symphytum 30C* administered orally produced the cure. After four months of semi-confinement, Cody declared himself recovered; he broke down the fence and began taking care of his girls again.

PLACEBOS

Antibiotics are the true placebos in this country. Parents take their children to the doctor and say “this child has a fever and runny nose.” The doctor prescribes an antibiotic and the parents are relieved, “Oh, my child will be fine now; the antibiotics will take care of the problem”. That is today’s placebo. Their faith is wrongly placed in antibiotics. The parents will then return to a diet filled with low-fat, processed, extruded foods and wonder why the child becomes ill again several weeks later. It takes a wise and open-minded parent to step back and question what is occurring.

REGGIE

The client who requests homeopathic medicine doesn’t have this blind faith in antibiotics. His experience is just the opposite of the person who has the blind faith in antibiotics. Using homeopathic medicines actually allows the animal owner to see the change in the animal. The boxer ‘Reggie’ had an inflammation of the left ear. The canal was hot and swollen and the tip of the pinna traumatized and bleeding. Allopathic drugs were of no help despite a positive yeast culture.

Homeopathic *Ferrum phosphoricum 30C* gave relief within hours. Reggie’s wounded pinna healed quickly as did the otitis externa. A few applications of *Graphites* ointment sealed and toughened the pinna so that it could withstand future trauma.

REVERENCE FOR ALL LIFE

In homeopathic medicine one learns a reverence for all of life. If something is there, you don’t want to just kill it. If you have weeds, why do you have weeds in your pasture? If you have ticks all over your horse, ask why. One lady called me and complained that she was pulling 30 ticks off her horse everyday. Why? Why do the ticks like that animal? This lady has other horses that do not attract ticks. Why that one? The Search for such answers keeps the homeopathic veterinarian busy.

Conventional thinking would have us killing the so-called enemy, whether bacteria or parasite. Conventional approaches deny that patients whether human or animal vary a great deal in vitality. The search of Drs. Samuel Hahnemann and Andrew Taylor Still in different centuries led to a new medical discipline. Samuel Hahnemann in 1790 first proposed the system of Homeopathic medicine. Eighty years later Andrew Taylor Still was teaching a system which he called Osteopathy or Osteopathic medicine. Homeopathy and Osteopathy are vitalistic systems. Patients improve as the healing vitality is released from within.

BLEEDING ULCER

Farmer J experienced the release of that healing vitality in his dairy cow by administering homeopathic remedies. The young Holstein had become anemic from a bleeding ulcer of the true stomach (abomasum). The major symptoms were: pale mucous membranes with profound weakness; a rapid thready heartbeat; loss of appetite; black tarry diarrhea, and disappearing milk. The veterinarian on site stated that due to active blood loss, he estimated death to occur within six hours.

Treatment consisted of two homeopathic medications: *Arnica montana* and *Phosphorus*. Prescription: Dosing hourly, give *Arnica* on the even hours and *Phosphorus* on the odd. Within six hours the cow was eating again and by the third day, the milk production had gone up to half of what it had been before the illness. *Arnica* was discontinued and the prescription *Phosphorus* was dosed three times daily for the rest of the week. The cow recovered. Farmer J refused to accept the prognosis of ‘there is no hope.’ He exercised the connectedness to the greater healing community.

SIALADENITIS

A New Englander reported the release of healing vitality in her horse ‘Ebony’ that was suffering from Sialadenitis, inflammation of a salivary gland, which led to a salivary gland tumor of the muzzle.

According the Merck Manuel, “Surgical removal of the affected gland” is the treatment of choice. The diagnosis had been performed from a biopsy at the university veterinary laboratory. The location would make surgery difficult to perform. The owner chose instead for a homeopathic consultation. A careful and thorough intake directed us to the correct homeopathic medication. *Calcarea carbonica* 200C dosed once weekly for five weeks proved to be the cure.

ESOPHAGEAL OBSTRUCITON

Another New England horse owner had to use homeopathy and hands on therapy to help her horse. On a cold winter night, the horses escaped from their paddock and ran through the woods. The next morning two of the three were colicky. The outside temperature was eight degrees above zero F. Living on an island totally surrounded by ice prevented any local veterinarians from reaching the animal. Fortunately, several doses of *Nux vomica* brought relief to one equine. The second sick horse was discharging water and mucous from both nostrils. A desperate phone call to a homeopathic veterinarian confirmed the worse. This horse was suffering from choke as well from colic.

This is an emergency situation. Normally, choke is treated by having the veterinarian pass a stomach tube into the esophagus to the obstruction and drip oil onto the object as he moves the tube back and forth. Most chokes are caused by apples, potatoes, ears of corn, and other solids. Hoping to break up the obstruction or push it into the stomach is the only way to save the horses life. If the obstruction is not relieved, the animal experiences an agonizing death in about two to four days.

We prescribed three types of therapy: homeopathy, lubrication, and massage. Something very hard was stuck in the esophagus. Was it an apple or a potato or a wad of frozen grain?

Prescription: *Arnica* orally on the even hours and *Nux vomica* on the odd hours.

Drip one ounce of vegetable oil into the esophagus on the half hour.

Massage the neck and throat in a downward direction every hour until the obstruction is relieved.

Nine hours later the obstruction had passed into the stomach and the patient began to nibble hay and drink normally. The cause of the obstruction and the colic turned out to be eating frozen onions. Onions would explain the colic as well as the choke. Fortunately, the horses recovered even though no veterinarian was able to make his way to the farm. The family learned a hard lesson. The blessing is that they have three live horses to till the soil this spring.

Though this family chose to be physically disconnected from others by living on an island which they farm, they are wise enough to be connected to the organic agricultural community. They were also farsighted enough to keep communication lines open with the complementary health community, and to have homeopathic medicines on hand. Cody's owners, Reggie's family, farmer J and the horse owners from New England are spread out geographically, but connected to a homeopathic community. Their actions demonstrate the principle of connectedness. Living beings on a farm are connected to one another, and that farm is connected with a larger healing community.

Submitted by: C. Edgar Sheaffer, VMD
Bonnie M. Sheaffer, RN
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