

Homeopathic Treatment of Acute Disease By Henrietta Beaufait DVM, CVH

The definition of acute disease is:

- Quick onset
- Runs a fairly well/defined course
- Has a predictable outcome
- Will clear up on its own without treatment

****Note: Acute Flare-up of Chronic Disease** looks acute because of quick onset, **BUT**:

1. The course of the flare-up is not well defined due to the individual nature of underlying chronic disease.
2. It will not clear up of its own accord without homeopathic treatment.
3. The outcome is unpredictable. ******

Then why use homeopathy in acute situations???

Homeopathic remedies are used to hasten recovery, thereby reducing discomfort and suffering. For animals involved in production, there is the opportunity to hasten recovery and boost production without disturbing sustainable, organic farming methods.

Choosing Potency:

In acute situations you will usually use the lower potencies (3x, 6x, 12c, up to 30c). These are easily attained at health food stores. The higher potencies (200c, 1M, 10M, etc) work at a much deeper level, are used for chronic situations, and are usually available by prescription.

Remedies are not to be given continuously, but rather repeated to effect, allowing the animal's immune system to react to the remedy.

For example:

3x, 6x, 6c, Re-evaluate every 2-4 hours; repeat if necessary

12c, 30c, Re-evaluate every 4-6 hours; repeat if necessary

Repeat:

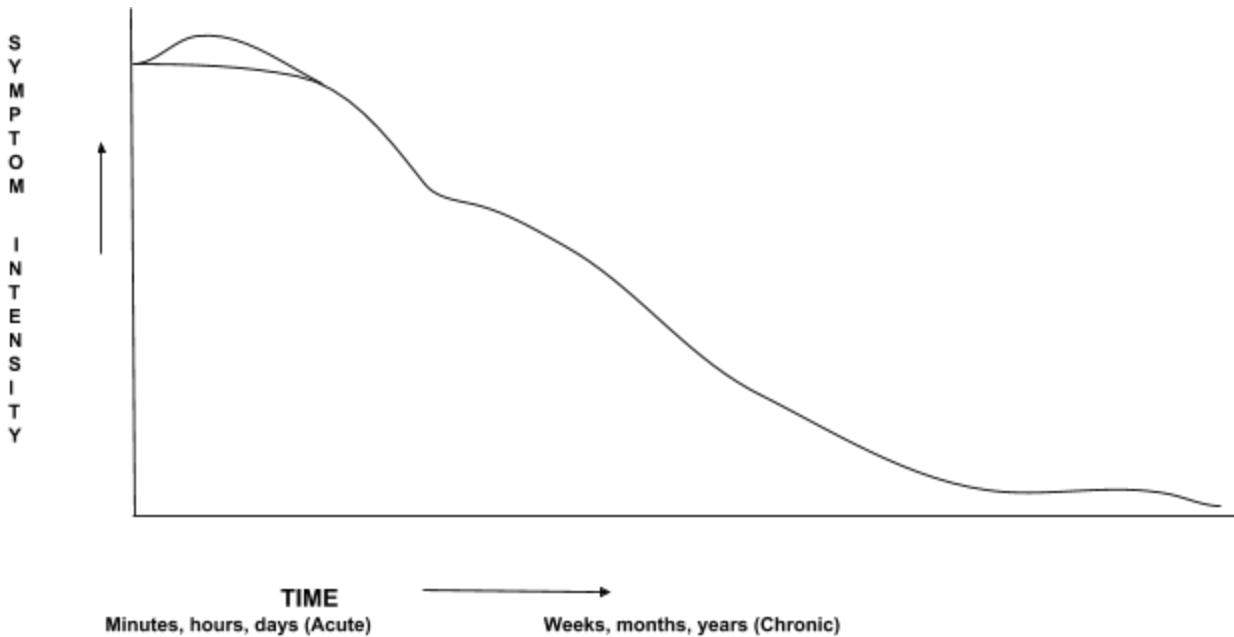
Until you see better than 70% improvement

If there **IS** improvement, give another dose only as symptoms begin to return

If there is **NO** improvement after 3 doses, consult with a homeopathic veterinarian

What to expect?

We are dealing with acute situations that have a predictable outcome. However, with homeopathic intervention, we can expect a faster, more uneventful, more comfortable recovery. This recovery can be graphed as follows:



Acute Cases

Arnica - "injuries recent and remote"

A 2 year old Holstein show heifer calved nearly 3 months earlier. She had slipped on the concrete right after calving and "split" herself. Her right leg then swelled from the thigh to the ankle about 3x its normal size, and she could not bend the leg at the hock. Her rectal temperature was normal. She was diagnosed as having cellulitis, and large amounts of penicillin were given 2x/day for several weeks. The heifer was starting to have a difficult time getting up, her body condition was deteriorating, and (of course) the milk she gave was not marketable. Alternative treatment was sought. After physical exam and history was taken, it was decided to stop antibiotic treatment and give Arnica 30c whenever the heifer hit her foot on the sill coming into the milking parlor. The owner gave Arnica 2x/day for the next 4 days, then skipped a few doses because the heifer could bend the leg enough as to not hit her foot on the sill. Over the next several days, he only had to dose her once every 2-3 days, then only once in the following 3 weeks. A follow-up exam was done 5 weeks after the first dose of Arnica. The heifer had made such a complete recovery that she was entered in an upcoming show.

The 14 year-old, and the Trashing, Restless Calf

At the start of milking, a young girl discovered one of the 6 week-old calves, thrashing around with her head stuck under the pen wall partition. After quickly removing the calf's head from that position, the heifer continued to thrash around. The calf was isolated in the youngstock sick pen where it continued to thrash around, proving difficult to feed, taking only sips between thrashing episodes. The girl also noted that the extremities were, the body clammy, and the mouth dry. Looking through the materia medica that came with her dad's homeopathic kit, she used the symptoms of *restlessness, small drinks often, cold extremities, and dry mouth* to try and find a remedy to match. She closely studied Aconite, Arsenicum, and Pyrogenium. She gave Arsenicum 30c once. Thirty minutes later, the calf was laying down quietly, but wouldn't eat, and looked kind of sleepy. One hour later, the calf got up by herself, looked brighter, and drank all of her supper. Recovery was uneventful. The girl noticed a couple of months later that she was the only calf in the group to get over a slight case of ringworm without any treatment.

Dairy/Beef-x Calf with Cough and Diarrhea

A 5 week-old calf started with a rattling cough, so the owner tried Ant-t. 30c, 2x/day for 3 days until the symptoms changed to a dry cough, loose manure, and a pale appearance to the mucous membranes. She changed the remedy to Phosphorus 30c, 2x/day for 3 days. The calf then developed a yellow nasal discharge, the dry cough as before, eye goop, and manure that would change from loose to firm, and back again throughout the day. Discouraged at this point, she called for help. Because of the changeable nature of the symptoms, the nasal and eye discharge, and the persistent dry cough, we tried Pulsatilla 30c, 2x/day for up to 3 days, as needed. The owner reported a week later that the calf was a lot better, with only an occasional cough, manure normal, and no nasal discharge.

Acute Bovine Respiratory Complex (shipping fever)

A herd of 50 milking Holstein cows were eating and producing well until unsettled, late fall weather patterns arrived. The weather was changeable from cold to rather cool/humid conditions, and back again, over short intervals of time, therefore making it difficult to keep the barn ventilated at optimum levels. Soon, many were off feed, coughing, feverish, and production was down.

As is often done when dealing with an epidemic, a symptom picture of the whole herd was constructed. The remedy picture of Aconite closely matched the herd's symptom picture of *sudden onset following cool/humid weather, high fevers, dry cough, anxiety about being examined, and thirst*. Aconite 200c was put into the drinking water. The next day, 39 cows were eating, breathing better, and had normal temperatures. These

cows were not treated again. Seven cows seemed unchanged, and were treated again with Aconite 200c in their water bowls. Four additional cows were worse, exhibiting a new symptom picture that didn't match Aconite. These cows were *reluctant to move, feverish, coughing, breathing was short and rapid, pleurisy could be heard with the stethoscope*. Bryonia 30c every 12 hours was chosen for this group of cows.

On the third day, of the seven cows treated with Aconite, only one did not respond and exhibited new symptoms not seen before. This cow developed diarrhea along with previous symptoms. The symptom picture of *nervousness, desire to drink cold water, hard cough, fever, and diarrhea*, matched the remedy picture of Phosphorus. The rest of the herd seemed to be improving.

On day 4, some of the young stock developed symptoms and were given Aconite 1M. Five after the initial outbreak, the farmer met me at the milkroom door with some encouraging news: the amount of milk in the bulk tank was beginning to return to normal!

Outline of disease progression:

