

The Use of Homeopathy in Chronic Disease

By Henrietta Beaufait DVM, CVH

Chronic disease is more deep-seated than acute disease.

- It develops slowly, continues for a long time, and is often accompanied by a general deterioration in health.
- The development of the disease does not take a predictable course.
- It is not possible to say for how long it will last, nor how long it will take to respond to treatment.

Homeopaths believe that the increase in the incidence of these chronic conditions are due to several factors:

- Poor diet
- Environmental pollutants
- Over-use of vaccines
- Use of suppressive drugs and methods (antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, antidepressants, antehelminthics, tranquilizers, removal of diseased tissue by surgery)
- Inheritance of chronic disease from parents (due to the above causes)

SIGNS OF UNDERLYING CHRONIC DISEASE OFTEN ACCEPTED AS “NORMAL”

Ruminants:

- Dull haircoat, bran-like scales, lick marks on back indicating external parasites, udder rot, ringworm, warts
- Appetite problems - i.e. won't finish concentrate, eats only silage, eats only hay but no silage, licks urine, ketotic breath
- Manure too dry, mucoid, off-color (very dark or tan-colored), diarrhea, white scours
- Calving
- High somatic cell (SSC > 200,000), positive California Mastitis Test (CMT), lactating and dry-cow mastitis
- Foot rot, smelly/slimy bulbs of heels, hairy heel warts, swollen coronary band, sole abscess
- Pain over back between shoulder blades
- Production not what expected for age of animal and stage of lactation
- Body Condition Score (BCS) does not correspond to stage of lactation

Horses

- Cribbing, weaving, over-reactive, fearful, excessively aggressive, fear of loud/slight noises, fear of narrow spaces, not wanting to be touched or groomed
- Chronic conjunctivitis, foal snots, asthma, sweat on upper body but not lower, unpleasant odor of skin, inappropriate shedding, poor-healing wounds

- Foul breath, cracks at the corner of mouth, salivation from clover, hollow teeth/hard to float, loose teeth before the age of 20yrs, eats indigestible things (dirt, manure, acorns, wood), craves salt, repeated colics, sensitive to weather changes with GI signs, excessive susceptibility to parasites, potbellied foals, dry fecal balls
- Stiff until warmed up, tie-up if not warmed up, swollen legs that may not change with exercise, unable to balance on three legs, thrush present under optimal stable management, feet sensitive to hammering nails, exercise intolerance, disturbed by temperature changes, fat deposits around tail head, croup/cresty neck

Dogs and/or cats

- Doggy smell, frequently attracts fleas, dry, oily, lackluster coat, excessive shedding, not grooming, ear problems, waxy, oily, itchy, recurrent mites, eye discharge, tearing or matter in corner of eyes, raised third eyelid, spots appearing on iris, “freckles” appearing on face, whiskers falling out, fragile, thickened, distorted claws that are painful or sensitive to trim
- Fear of loud noises, thunder, wind, people, animals, life; too timid, too rough or aggressive, hard to train, barks too much, biting when petted, clumsy, excessively licking objects or people, not using litter box or not covering stool, bad breath, tartar buildup, loss of teeth, poor appetite, craving indigestible things to eat (dirt, cat litter, rocks), sensitivity to milk, cat on non-dry food that drinks water more than once a week, red gum line, vomiting even hairballs more than 1-3 times per year, tendency toward diarrhea with least change of diet, obesity, anal gland problems, recurrent parasites
- Stiffness when getting up, early hip dysplasia, tires easily, cats can’t jump up on counters, difficulty going up and down stairs
- Low-grade fevers (normal: 101 - 101.5 F)
- Should be able to conceive easily, deliver easily, not pass on “genetic” breed problems, should live a long life (Shepherds 17yrs, Danes 12yrs, cats 24yrs)

Strategy for Treatment of Chronic Disease:

- After careful and extensive formation of a symptom picture (history, physical exam), try to find a remedy to best fit the animal’s symptom picture.
- Use **ancillary support**, when appropriate, such as:
 - Reviewing management practices, and making sure animals are clean and comfortable
 - Nutrition (cold-processed grain and forage for herbivores, or a raw diet for dogs and cats)
 - Natural vitamins

- Concentrated food extracts
- Chiropractic
- Therapeutic massage
- Selected western herbs
- Exercise
- Grooming

Do Not use treatments that interfere with homeopathic treatment:

- Conventional drugs and hormones, especially steroids or BST
- Antibiotics
- Tranquilizers
- Topical application except for non-aromatic emollients and some herbs like calendula or aloe
- Dentistry, if drugs are needed
- Surgery except for laceration repair, and routine spay/neuter
- Vaccination
- Herbal therapy, especially Chinese herbs
- Camphor or any strong-smelling substances
- Vitamins or nutrients given in mega-doses
- Catnip
- Acupuncture
- Moxa