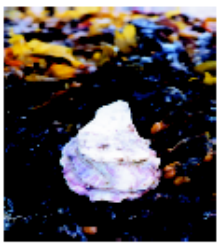
The Homeopathic Treatment of Animals in Europe

Third Edition November 2007



EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR CLASSICAL HOMEOPATHY
ECCH
EST 1990

The Homeopathic Treatment of Animals in Europe
Third Edition November 2007

Copyright © European Council for Classical Homeopathy
All rights reserved.

No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication
may be made without written permission of ECCH

Note: This report document has been produced by
the European Council for Classical Homeopathy,
with help from an appointed sub-committee consisting of homeopaths
actively involved in the homeopathic treatment of animals.
This report has been ratified by the ECCH Council.
ECCH represents the views and interests of the homeopathic profession in Europe.

Feedback

The ECCH Council invites comments on, and corrections
to, the content of its public documents. Please send any
feedback or queries to the: ECCH Secretariat,
Address: School House, Market Place,
Kenninghall, Norfolk, NR16 2AH United Kingdom.
Tel. & Fax: 0044 1953 888163
Email: ecch@gn.apc.org

The Homeopathic Treatment of Animals in Europe

Third Edition November 2007

Introduction

This document has been developed by the European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH), which represents the interests of the homeopathic profession and their patients across Europe. The document has been produced with the assistance of an appointed sub-committee consisting of homeopaths actively involved in the homeopathic treatment of animals in ECCH member countries.

The aim of this document is to present an overview of homeopathic treatment of animals in ECCH member countries.

Homeopathy has been used continuously by Europe's citizens for the past 200 years. Homeopathic medicines are increasingly being used in the treatment of both pet and farm animals across Europe. It is being used by growing numbers of farmers because homeopathic medicines are non-toxic and result in reduced antibiotic and other medicines residues in agricultural products and animal waste. In recognition of this in 1999 the EU introduced a regulation which recommends that homeopathic and phytotherapeutic medicines must be used as a first choice in the health care of animals being raised organically (European Council 1999).

Report summary

The extent of homeopathic treatment of animals

This report provides information on the homeopathic treatment of animals in 16 ECCH member countries (Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom). In most countries animals are only to a limited extent treated with homeopathic medicines, and in a few countries such treatment is somewhat more common. This is in particular true for Germany and Sweden, where training courses in animal homeopathy have been established. Such courses also exist in Finland, Norway and Switzerland. Homeopathic treatment of animals seems to be increasing in popularity in several countries.

Animals and conditions treated

In most countries both pets and farm animals are treated homeopathically. Most commonly pets include cats and dogs, and farm animals mainly include cattle and horses, but to some extent pigs and birds such as canaries and parrots are given homeopathic medicines.

Animals are treated homeopathically for both acute and chronic conditions. Acute conditions include injuries. Both physical and behavioural problems are treated. Physical problems include conditions of the skin such as eczemas, eye inflammations, allergies, cough, gastrointestinal disorders, urinary tract diseases including infections and diseases of the kidneys, diabetes, problems of the liver and thyroid, diseases of the loco motor system, neurological complaints such as paralysis and epilepsy, and hormonal disturbances. More specifically cows and sheep are treated for mastitis, calves for diarrhoea, pigs for respiratory difficulties and birds for eye infections. Complaints arising from vaccination and breeding problems are also treated.

Homeopathy in farming

The use of homeopathic remedies in farming in general and organic farming in particular varies considerably from country to country. In countries such as Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Greece, Israel and the United Kingdom a limited number of farmers give their animals homeopathic remedies. It seems that organic farmers do so more often. One example is Greece, where some organic farms systematically use homeopathy to treat their animals.

In countries such as Germany, Spain and Sweden farmers use homeopathic remedies to treat their animals much more frequently. Surveys have shown that as many as 72.3 percent of German organic farmers use homeopathic medicinal products to treat their animals, and between three and 30 percent of farmers in general do so. A Swedish survey showed that 14 percent of all farmers use homeopathy to treat their animals. A survey of 41 dairy farmers showed that the main reason why farmers choose homeopathy is to reduce the use of antibiotics. Results also showed a reduction of the use of antibiotics from 30 to 10 percent. In addition farmers mention reduction of costs, and harmless and effective treatment as reasons why they opt for homeopathy. Overall results showed an improvement of 76 percent. Farmers also point out that homeopathy can be used to treat diseases where no conventional treatment option exists.

Homeopathy in animals used in competition

Homeopathy is to a limited extent used to treat animals used in competition in Finland, Germany and Sweden. Regulation does however prohibit the use of homeopathic medicinal products shortly before competitions in Finland and Sweden.

Legislation

Legislation imposes major restrictions on the practice of homeopathy in animals in three countries, in Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. In Ireland and in the United Kingdom treatment of animals is restricted to veterinarians only. Swedish veterinarians are prohibited from prescribing homeopathic medicines. In Germany only veterinarians may treat food producing animals and may only prescribe remedies specifically registered for treatment of animals. In countries such as Armenia and Serbia only homeopaths prescribe homeopathic remedies, and veterinarians seem not to know of or be interested in homeopathy. Moreover, homeopathy has been included on the doping list in Finland, and may therefore not be given to horses 96 hours before a race and dogs 14 days before competition. Similar regulation exists in Sweden, where homeopathic remedies diluted at a ratio of more than 1:10 000 may not be used 96 hours before competitions involving race- and trotting horses.

Education

Education and training exists in several countries, ranging from smaller weekend courses for pet owners and farmers, to fully fledged courses for homeopaths and veterinarians wishing to treat animals on a professional level. Full courses exist in Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and the establishment of similar courses is in its planning phases in Israel.

Courses in Germany range from two to four year part-time courses including 1300 hours of lectures and one year of clinical training. In Finland a four year course is available, including two years of basic homeopathy education and training, plus two years focusing specifically on the treatment of animals. In Switzerland three courses are recognised by the national association for homeopaths treating animals. This includes a 1200 hour course in homeopathy and general veterinary medicine. In Sweden a two-year full time education programme for animal homeopaths provided by local authorities in cooperation with a homeopathy centre has been running since 1998.
In Norway a five year part-time course is available for both homeopaths and veterinarians. Veterinarians in any country may do a one year (80-120 hours) course provided by the International

Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH). In the United Kingdom a four year homeopathy course for veterinarians exists.

Organisation

Organisations representing homeopaths who treat animals exist in three countries, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland. The Swedish association, Riksförbundet för klassisk djurhomeopati (RKDH) was established in 2000 and represents 65 members whereof 34 have a diploma to practise. In Germany the Berufsverband klassischer TierhomöopathInnen Deutschlands (BkTD) represents socalled 'Tierheilpraktikers'. This association represents practitioners who treat animals homeopathically. In Switzerland the Berufsverband der TierheilpraktikerInnen Schweiz (BTS) is an organisation for CAM practitioners treating animals. Homeopathy is one of the main therapies applied by 10 out of 11 practitioners.

Pharmaceutical questions

No specific regulation exists for the sale and use of HMPs for animals in countries such as Belgium and Serbia. These medicines may only be sold in pharmacies in Norway and Spain. Products used for the treatment of animals in Germany do on the other hand have to be specifically recognised for the use in animals. In Finland, homeopathic medicinal products are regulated according to national legislation and must be labelled 'for animal use only'. These products may be purchased in health food shops and pharmacies. In Sweden regulations for HMPs used for humans are equally valid for use in animals. These products are regulated according to specific Swedish legislation, which states that they may be sold if they are for personal use only and provided they are not categorised prescription drugs in Sweden. Although homeopaths are allowed to import remedies, they need to hold a dispensing licence by the national medicine agency and no practitioner has yet been given such a licence. Some HMPs have been exempted from these regulations and may therefore be dispensed without such permission. These remedies must at least be diluted in the D6/6X potency (1:1 000 000 ration). Registered remedies may be purchased in the D4/4X potency (1:10 000).

Research

A number of research articles have been published in countries such as Germany, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Examples include projects on treatment of eczema in horses in Finland, utilisation, effects and implications of homeopathy in health and productivity of dairy cows in Norway, and a number of trials in farming animals in Sweden. These include a survey of 41 dairy farmers reporting 76 % improvement in their animals. Results indicate significant reduction in the use of antibiotics in animals. This was also the main reason why farmers opted for homeopathy. In Norway a PhD in homeopathy was passed in December 2004 on homeopathic treatment of dairy cows. The Swedish animal homeopathy association, the RKDH, is currently collecting 300 to 1000 single cases of successful homeopathy treatment of animals, and an Israeli project on homeopathic treatment of cats suffering from eosiniophilic granuloma complex (skin disease) is in its planning stages.

The situation in individual countries

Armenia (OCH 2007)

Animals are only rarely being treated with homeopathic remedies in Armenia. Most often this includes dogs, cows and horses treated for injuries and when giving birth. Homeopathic remedies are in Armenia only prescribed by homeopaths. There is no regulation and there are no legal restrictions for the practice of homeopathy or other Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) treatment of animals, or for the sale and use of homeopathic medicinal products in Armenia. Education and training in veterinary homeopathy does not yet exists.

Belgium (LHC 2007)

About 5-10 homeopaths and a few veterinarians regularly treat animals with homeopathic remedies, and others do it occasionally. These are members of the Liga Homeopatica Classica (LHC), the Belgian ECCH member association. Some farmers and pet owners also give homeopathic remedies to their animals. The animals most often treated homeopathically are farm animals, horses, dogs and cats.

No legal regulation currently exists for the homeopathic or other CAM treatment of animals in Belgium, but discussions have taken place as to whether it should be banned. No regulations exist for the sale and use of homeopathic medicinal products for animals. No education and training in veterinary homeopathy exists.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (SHBH 2007)

A limited number of homeopaths prescribe homeopathic remedies for animals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as homeopathy is still not well known in the country. No legislation exists that regulates the homeopathic or other CAM treatment of animals. Hence, no legal restrictions for treatment of animals exist. No regulations exist for the sale and use of homeopathic medicinal products. No education and training in veterinary homeopathy exists.

Bulgaria (HSB 2007)

Animals are to a limited extent being treated with homeopathic remedies in Bulgaria. All three categories of homeopaths, veterinarians and pet owners give animals homeopathic remedies. Homeopathy is to a very limited extent being used within the organic farming industry. Theoretically the practice of homeopathy is not illegal, as Parliament has voted in favour of a number of resolutions for the organic farming industry. These resolutions are in line with European directives for organic farming (European Council 1999). However, few homeopaths practise, as the Health law restricts the practice of homeopathy to medical doctors and dentists only (Law of Health 2004). No education and training in veterinary homeopathy exists.

Czech Republic (CACH 2007)

Up to an estimated 10 percent of all animals in the Czech Republic are treated with homeopathic remedies. As a consequence of EU recommendations the Czech Government has recommended homeopathy within the organic farming industry. Anyone may administer homeopathic medicines to animals, as long as it is not termed medical treatment. Only veterinarians are allowed to provide medical treatment for animals. Other than this no restrictions apply. Homeopathic remedies registered for human beings may also be used to treat animals. Homeopathy and other CAM therapies are not mentioned in any parts of Czech legislation. No specific education and training for homeopathic treatment of animals exists.

Finland (SH 2007)

Animals are treated with homeopathic remedies in Finland. Although still limited, CAM treatment in general and homeopathic treatment in particular is becoming increasingly popular amongst animal owners. There are individual differences as to which conditions that are being treated, but in general homeopathy is particularly used to treat chronic diseases in animals, especially in cases where conventional treatment has failed to yield any success. Most commonly dogs and cats are treated homeopathically, followed by horses, cattle and other animals. The most commonly treated complaints are skin conditions, allergies, malfunctions of the kidneys, liver or thyroid, damages arising from vaccination (not officially registered), paralysis, behavioural and breeding problems.

Possible explanations as to why homeopathy is not more frequently used in the treatment of animals include lack of inclusion of homeopathy as a part of insurance company policies and a strong belief that regular veterinary treatment is successful in treating most animal complaints.

Some homeopaths have specific training that gives them the competency to treat animals. Other homeopaths tend to try to treat their animals with homeopathic remedies first, but will most often consult with a veterinarian when they fail to succeed, instead of consulting a homeopath who has specifically trained to be able to treat animals. An estimated five percent of all cases are treated by homeopaths.

Veterinarians who have trained to treat animals prescribe homeopathic remedies when requested by animal owners. They are however often obliged to prescribe conventional drugs such as antibiotics simultaneously in order to avoid maltreatment accusations.

Some pet owners use homeopathy in acute treatment of their animals, but quickly consult with veterinarians who then often prescribe medicines such as antibiotics. More rarely pet owners who have more experience with homeopathic treatment of their animals will tend to consult with a homeopath first. Some owners of animals used in competition choose homeopathy alongside other therapies such as acupuncture, massage and osteopathy, although homeopathy is included under doping regulations.

The legal situation

In general anyone may treat animals in Finland. There are however a few legal restrictions, in particular related to the treatment of animals in the organic farming industry (see later). Moreover, there are regulations for treatment of animals used in competition. Homeopathic medicinal products may not be used to treat horses within 96 hours prior to a race and dogs may not be treated homeopathically 14 days prior to a competition (doping regulations for dogs are effective since 01.01.2007).

Homeopathy in farming and within the organic farming industry

A few farmers use homeopathic remedies to treat their animals, in particular when they have a homeopath in their family or when they personally know a homeopath. Homeopathy is recommended as a primary means of treatment within the organic farming industry according to EU regulations (European Council 1999) that became effective from 24 August 2000. Regulations have been introduced mainly due to concern about the health of animals in organic farming.

However, homeopathy is only rarely used in the organic farming industry, due to parts of the national legislation and regulation (KTM 2000). Any medication used to treat organic food producing animals must be approved and registered in Finland, with the exception of homeopathic medicinal products diluted beyond 1:10 000 (D4) (Luonnonmukainen tuotanto 2007). However, any medication, including over the counter (OTC) drugs, used to treat these animals must be prescribed by a veterinarian. Moreover, warranty time for drugs used to treat organic food producing animals is twice the time set

for drugs used in regular farming, and the minimum warranty time has been set to 48 hours. Only a limited number of veterinarians and homeopaths are specifically trained to treat these animals.

Sale of homeopathic medicinal products

Homeopathic medicinal products are regulated according to the National Agency of Medicine legislation and are in this regard viewed as prescription medicine that should be registered. A number of health food shops and some pharmacies provide homeopathic medicinal products, both in D- and C-potencies and also so-called combination remedies. Some pet stores also provide a number of homeopathic remedies in low potencies. These remedies are labelled 'for animal use only'.

Education

A four year training program is open to anyone who wishes to become competent to treat animals homeopathically. The training program, provided by Suomen Homeopaattisen Lääketieteen Institutti (SHLI, the Finnish Institute of Homeopathic Medicine), comprises of two years general education and training in homeopathy philosophy, methodology and materia medica (also for those who wish to treat human beings), followed by a two year specific training in classical animal/veterinary homeopathy. Some veterinarians follow a one year training course abroad, provided by the International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH). A number of shorter self-help courses are offered to pet owners and farmers who wish to learn the most basic information for homeopathic treatment of animals. These courses run over a few hours or over a weekend.

Research

An article on the treatment of eczema in horses using a homeopathically prepared autogenous serum preparation has been published (Hallamaa 2001).

Germany (BkTD 2007, Frauke 2007, Mohr 2007)

Animals are increasingly being treated with homeopathic remedies in Germany.

There are homeopaths who do a complete postgraduate education and training to enable them to treat animals homeopathically. These practitioners are represented by Berufsverband klassischer TierhomöopathInnen Deutschlands (BkTD). In addition there are so-called 'Tierheilpraktikers', whereof 10-50 percent use homeopathic remedies to treat animals. The standard of these practitioners varies considerably. 'Heilpraktiker' is the title for a group of officially recognised German healthcare practitioners. The title 'Tierheilpraktiker' is however not legally protected. Some homeopaths also treat animals without any specific training or education.

According to the International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH) two percent of German veterinarians prescribe homeopathic medicinal products (HMPs) (IAVH 2005). These veterinarians mostly practise clinical homeopathy. Others have estimated that 10 to 20 percent of veterinarians practise homeopathy.

In 2003 as many as 72.3 percent of organic farmers stated that they use HMPs to treat their animals. Somewhere between three and 30 percent of farmers in general use HMPs to treat their animals. Somewhere between two and 20 percent of pet owners use homeopathic remedies to treat their animals. Homeopathy is only rarely used to treat animals used in competition.

Most often farmers use homeopathy to treat mastitis in cows, diarrhoea in calves and respiratory difficulties in pigs. Pet owners most often consult practitioners for treatment of their animals' (mainly cats and dogs) eczemas, cough, diabetes, epilepsy and behavioural or psychological difficulties. Horses are also increasingly being treated homeopathically. A number of guidebooks on homeopathic

treatment of dogs and cats have been published to be used by pet owners and other. Some use homeopathy to treat animals used in competition.

The legal situation

The homeopathic treatment of food producing animals is regulated through the 'Arzneimittelgesetz' and the 'Rückstandsverordnung' for food producing animals. These regulations state that only veterinarians may treat food producing animals and they may only prescribe remedies specifically registered for treatment of animals. These remedies are labelled 'ad.us. Vet.'. German Medicines Law and Narcotics Law state that homeopathic medicinal products need to be recognised as homeopathic remedies for animals. Other than this there no legal regulation of the homeopathic treatment of animals in Germany exists.

Education

Some homeopaths go through education and training that lasts for more than four years (part-time), comprising of more than 1300 hours of education (lectures) including medical training and one year of clinical training (Appendix A). Such education has been provided by the 'Animalmundi school for animal homeopathy' since 1998. This school is working together with the BkTD to develop a Bachelor degree course in animal homeopathy. Graduates may be licensed by the BkTD. Other schools educate 'Tierheilpraktikers' after one to two years education. The title 'Tierheilpraktiker' is however not legally protected.

The 'Scola animilia' which is linked to an animal homeopathy association called VtKH, offers education and training at a lower level. This school provides slightly more education in homeopathic treatment of animals than other Tierheilpraktiker schools. Most other Tierheilpraktiker schools teach homeopathy as one out of several Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) methods. These include two to six weekends of teaching and shorter medical and only very limited clinical training.

Several postgraduate courses for veterinarians exist. Most of these comprise of six weekend seminars, homework and working on some cases. IAVH recommended courses comprise of 80 to 120 hours of education and graduates may then use the title 'veterinary homeopath'. A few veterinarians have attended education and training in human homeopathy.

Some short courses are open to pet owners and farmers to learn about treatment of acute conditions in animals such as mastitis, wounds, infections and diarrhoea. These courses last from a few hours to a couple of weekends. Some seminars for farmers are organised by the organic farming organisation.

Research

Some research showing positive results has been carried out on the homeopathic treatment of pigs and cows. This research has been founded by the Karl and Veronica Carstens foundation.

Political

The German green party has recommended homeopathy in organic farming.

Greece (HAG 2007)

Animals are being treated with homeopathic remedies in Greece. Most homeopaths do to some degree also treat animals. People who choose homeopathy for themselves sometimes also choose homeopathy for their pets, mainly for cats and dogs suffering from digestive problems and urinary tract infections, and birds such as canaries and parrots with skin problems and eye inflammations. Some organic farms with food producing animals systematically use homeopathy to treat their animals, in particular for

cattle and sheep suffering from mastitis. Some veterinarians are also homeopaths and use homeopathic medicinal products to treat animals.

No legislation exists for the homeopathic treatment of animals in Greece. There are thus no legal restrictions to homeopathic or other CAM treatment of animals. No specific education and training in veterinary homeopathy exists. Only homeopaths and veterinarians trained in homeopathy treat animals. These practitioners have undergone basic homeopathy education.

Ireland (ISH 2007)

It is illegal for someone who is not a veterinarian to treat animals except in an emergency situation when no vet is available. Registered veterinary practitioners may under current legislation use homeopathic medicines in the treatment of animals.

Israel (IACH 2007)

Although not very frequent, animals are increasingly being treated with homeopathic remedies in Israel. There are about 10 clinics (about one percent) for small animals where veterinarians prescribe homeopathic medicinal products and other CAM therapies alongside conventional medicine. The first veterinary homeopathy clinic was established in Tel Aviv in 1996. Today interest in homeopathy for animals has risen considerably, both amongst veterinarians and pet owners. Veterinarians quite often refer pet owners to veterinarians practising homeopathy.

Homeopaths give their own and their friends' animals homeopathic remedies. Pet owners give their animals homeopathic remedies when prescribed by veterinarians. Farmers do only to a very limited extend give their animals homeopathic remedies.

Most frequently pets are treated for chronic conditions. Some animal clinics provide homeopathic treatment for both acute and chronic conditions.

No legislation currently exists, so there are no legal restrictions to the homeopathic or other CAM practice of animals in Israel.

No full courses for homeopathy treatment of animals have been established yet, but there are moves to establish education and training for veterinarians. Courses in CAM treatment are open to pet owners.

A research project on homeopathic treatment of cats suffering from eosiniophilic granuloma complex (skin disease) is in the planning stages.

Norway (Hatledal 2007, NHL 2007)

Animals are to some extent treated with homeopathic remedies in Norway. A survey published in 1998 showed that 39 percent of 413 full members of Norske Homeopaters Landsforbund (NHL) treated animals. Most homeopaths prescribe homeopathic remedies for animals only to a limited degree. Nine homeopaths who are members of NHL practise more extensively and some run homeopathy clinics for treatment of animals.

Three or four veterinarians practise homeopathy. Pet owners and farmers do to some extent give their animals homeopathic remedies.

Pets, including dogs, cats and small animals, and horses and farm animals are treated homeopathically. Dogs are mainly treated for skin problems, allergies, gastrointestinal disorders, hormonal disturbances and diseases of the locomotor system. Cats are primarily treated for allergies, kidney problems and gastrointestinal disorders. Smaller animals are treated for a variety of conditions. Horses are mainly

treated for injuries, diseases of the locomotor and gastrointestinal system. Cows are primarily treated for mastitis and injuries.

No legislation for homeopathic treatment of animals exists. It is therefore not illegal to treat animals using homeopathic remedies. There are no regulations for the sale of HMPs. Only veterinarians may treat certain contagious diseases and carry out surgical procedures. Acupuncture involves penetration of the skin and is thus perceived as a surgical procedure that only can be carried out by veterinarians.

A five year part-time education in veteropathy (homeopathic treatment of animals) is available at Norsk Akademi for Naturmedisin (NAN, at www.nan.no). The course may be attended by veterinarians, homeopaths and others who meet the requirements for studying at Bachelor degree level. Veterinarians and homeopaths may carry out the course over a shorter period of time.

An introductory course in alternative treatment including homeopathy has since 1995 been provided by the Norges Veterinærhøgskole, which provides education and training to become a veterinarian.

A PhD in homeopathy was passed in December 2004 on the utilisation, effects and implications of homeopathy in health and productivity of dairy cows (Hektoen 2004). Results were unable to show any significant effect, but showed reduced use of antibiotics in dairy cows treated homeopathically. Conventional treatment provided by veterinarians was less common where homeopathy was used as an alternative. No negative effects of homeopathic treatment were found.

Articles on homeopathy for animals have been published in several newspapers and magazines. Two books have been published, one on CAM treatments for dogs including homeopathy, and another for CAM treatments for animals in generals (Hatledal and Stigar 2003).

The Republic of Serbia (ACHH 2007)

A limited number of homeopaths prescribe homeopathic remedies for animals in Serbia. Some pet owners bring their animals to homeopaths. Homeopaths refer pet owners to veterinarians when results are inadequate. No legislation exists that regulates the homeopathic or other CAM treatment of animals. Hence, no legal restrictions for treatment of animals exist. No regulations exist for the sale and use of homeopathic medicinal products. No education and training in veterinary homeopathy exists.

Spain (AEHU 2007)

A limited number of homeopaths and veterinarians prescribe homeopathic remedies for animals in Spain. Homeopathy is commonly used in the organic farming industry. Other than that it is rarely used to treat animals by pet owners and farmers. No legislation exists that regulates the homeopathic or other CAM treatment of animals. Hence, no legal restrictions for treatment of animals exist. Homeopathic medicinal products (HMPs) may only be sold in pharmacies and are regulated by the same laws as HMPs for human beings. Short courses in homeopathy are offered to veterinarians in some Spanish universities. No other education and training exists.

Sweden (Adamsson and Anebo 2007, Arcanum 2007, Arnesson, Jörgenfelt and Larsson 1999, RKDH 2007, Jörgenfelt 2007, SAKH 2007)

Animals are treated with homeopathic remedies in Sweden. An estimated five percent of animals in Sweden are treated with HMPs. Animals are mostly treated by homeopaths who have a specific education and training to enable them to treat animals homeopathically. Some other CAM practitioners use homeopathic remedies to a limited extent to treat animals. A 1997 survey showed that 14 percent of Swedish farmers to some extent use homeopathy to treat their animals (Ståhl 1997). This includes animals within the organic farming industry. Pet owners do to some extent treat their animals with homeopathic remedies. Animals used in competition are also to a certain degree treated with

HMPs, particularly trotting horses. A few veterinarians treat animals homeopathically, although Swedish veterinarians are prohibited from treating animals with homeopathic remedies.

Most often animals are treated homeopathically when the veterinarian is unable to help the animal.

Legislation

Veterinarians are prohibited from treating animals with homeopathic remedies and risk loosing their licence if they do so (Lagen 1994:844). The reason for this is that the Swedish veterinary association does not consider homeopathy scientifically proven to be effective or the practice of homeopathy treatment of animals as established experience. However, regulation introduced in 2005 states that animals may be treated homeopathically under the supervision of a veterinarian (Statens jordbruksverks föreskrifter 2006). Animal owners should first inform a veterinarian about their wish for their animals to be treated homeopathically. The veterinarian is not to provide homeopathic treatment, but should ensure that animals are not in need of special treatment pending on legislation for communicable diseases and legislation for animal welfare. Decisions may be based on telephone consultations. For food producing animals, the veterinarian should also ensure that the active ingredients prescribed are not in violation with current legislation. Moreover, this regulation also points out that animals used in organic farming should according to EU regulations be treated by using homeopathic or other alternative medicines, rather than using conventional drugs, provided it has been shown that such products are effective. This paragraph refers to European Council regulation for treatment of animals within the organic farming industry stating that these animals should preferably be treated using phytotherapeutic or homeopathic medicinal products (European Council 1999). Swedish regulation adds that such treatment should be given if it has been proven efficient for the animal and the specific problem in question.

Homeopathic remedies diluted at a ratio of more than 1:10 000 may not be used less than 96 hours before competitions involving race/trotting horses (Svenska Travsportens Centralförbund 2007). Similar regulations are in the process of being developed for food producing animals (Lindström 2007).

Homeopathic remedies may not be injected as only veterinarians are allowed to give animals injections. This is not considered a problem by animal homeopaths as they never carry out such treatment anyhow.

There are otherwise no legal restrictions for the use of homeopathic remedies provided by homeopaths, pet owners or farmers.

Legislation and regulation of HMPs

The import of homeopathic medicinal products (HMPs) is regulated through Swedish legislation (LVFS 1996). Legislation and regulation for HMPs used for humans are also valid for use in the treatment of animals. This legislation has been established in line with EU regulations (European Parliament and Council 2004).

HMPs must either be registered by Läkemedelsverket (the Swedish Medicines Agency) or be so-called ‘free-listed’ remedies. In the first category, HMPs may be registered at a lower price if they have already been registered by medicine authorities in another EU member country and provided the Swedish Medicines Agency accepts the available documentation. The latter category implies that a manufacturer is intending to register this particular remedy in the future. It may then, for the time being, be sold on the open market. An overview of registered and ‘frilistade’ remedies is available at the Medicines Agency’s website (www.lakemedelsverket.se/allmanhet/homeopatika).

Remedies can only be registered if they are not categorised as prescription drugs in Sweden. All HMPs must be produced according to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Each vial should contain an amount corresponding to a maximum of one year's use.

Homeopathic medicinal products are registered in the lowest potency that may be sold. The highest concentration permitted is the D4/4X potency (1:10 000 ratio) or diluted 100 times more than the lowest dose for the product sold as a conventional drugs. The highest concentration permitted for 'free-listed' remedies is the D6/6X potency (1:1 000 000 ration). Both categories of remedies may be sold in higher potencies (more diluted). So-called nosodes are, with the exception of Tuberculinum, not available in Sweden as they have not been registered by any manufacturer or importer.

Animal homeopaths may import remedies directly provided they are purchased from a recognised manufacturer or pharmacy in the country of origin. Practitioners may then also dispense single doses of HMPs, provided they have been granted a dispensing license by Läkemedelsverket (Swedish Medicines Agency) (Lindström 2007, Holt 2007). However, no practitioner holds such a licence, so in practice all remedies have to be purchased from Swedish manufacturers. These regulations apply for regulated HMPs. So-called 'frilistade' HMPs may be dispensed without such permission.

Organisation, education and training

Education and training in veterinary homeopathy exists both for homeopaths, veterinarians, pet owners and farmers. Such education varies from weekend courses to two year education programmes. A four-weekend seminar course used to exist for homeopathic treatment for farmers.

There are no public requirements for the education and training of someone who wants to use homeopathic remedies to treat animals in Sweden. Homeopaths treating animals have therefore taken on to organise themselves and a two-year full time course for the education and training of animal homeopaths has been established. Animal homeopaths are represented by Riksförbundet för klassisk djurhomeopati (RKDH) which was established in 2000. The association consists of 65 members, whereof 34 have a diploma to practice.

The education programme for animal homeopaths is provided by the local authorities in Orsa Lärcentrum in cooperation with Svenskt Center för Klassisk Homeopati AB. The course has been running since 1998. The course provides education in both animal homeopathy and veterinary medicine and runs over four terms over a two-year period including a total of 105 weeks of teaching. Students may be granted financial support by the authorities. For a more comprehensive overview of the training course please refer to Appendix B. The Arcanum school in Gothenburg offers a two year course in veterinary homeopathy. The course includes homeopathic treatment and veterinary medicine.

Research

A 1998 literature search pointed out the need for scientific research on homeopathy treatment of animals (Person, Beyer and Ekman 1998). A survey of 41 dairy farmers participated took place from May to November 1998, including a total of 1507 cows and 32 goats (Arnesson, Jörgenfelt and Larsson 1999). The farmers did themselves provide the treatment. Most of them had previously attended homeopathy seminars provided by animal homeopaths. The survey includes the outcome of interviews with the farmers, an overview of the use of and results from the treatment of animals with HMPs, and a complete list of used remedies including criteria for their use. A total of 378 animals were treated. The main reason the farmers stated for choosing homeopathy was to reduce the use of antibiotics. The outcome of the survey showed a reduction in the use of antibiotics from 30 percent to 10 percent. Another important reason for using HMPs is to reduce costs, as treatment provided by veterinarians is expensive, whereas homeopathy is a cheaper alternative, as well as being harmless and effective. The most commonly treated complaints were mastitis, complaints of legs/hoofs and treatment during parturition. This corresponds with a number of previously published studies (Kastebrink 1996, Henriksson 1997, Loor 1997). Animals were treated according to regulation for the

animal protection. Four animals were 'emergency slaughtered', a number which is considered reasonable when seen in relation to the total number of animals treated. Results show an improvement in 76 percent of the animals. In most cases farmers state that there is no recurrence of the disease, it either works or it does not. Moreover, farmers point out that homeopathy can also be used to treat diseases where no treatment option exists within conventional treatment. The most difficult complaint to treat seemed to be mastitis, with a success rate of 54 percent. For complaints of legs/hoofs 84 percent improved and 88 percent success was seen in treatment during parturition. The authors of the study conclude that homeopathy may serve as a complement to conventional treatment. Moreover, they encourage improved dialogue between CAM and conventional practitioners.

Other studies have also shown that the use of antibiotics may be reduced when using homeopathy in the treatment of animals (Kastebrink 1996, Henriksson 1997). One of these studies included homeopathic treatment in 17 farms over two winter seasons (Kastebrink 1996). The improvement rate ranged from 63 to 88 percent, including 72 percent improvement in mastitis. Treatment of mastitis seems to require more clinical experience.

Researchers were unable to find statistical or clinical effect of homeopathy in a placebo controlled double-blind study of diarrhoea in calves (De Verdier Klingenberg 2001).

A number of other studies have been published, whereof some show positive results and other do not (Persson, Beyer and Ekman 1998). This may partly be due to the fact that HMPs have been used in a more standardised way, rather than individualising treatment for animals. The overview includes a German study which showed highly significant results in treatment of pigs during parturition using Caulophyllum D30 (Wolter 1966). 15 out of 19 pigs responded positively to treatment, compared to no improvement in 23 pigs in the placebo group.

The RKDH is currently collecting 300 to 1000 single cases of successful homeopathy treatment of animals. The RKDH will bring the results of their survey to the Government.

Newspaper articles on homeopathy treatment of animals are quite common and have included information on rising interest for homeopathic treatment amongst pet- and horse owners.

Switzerland (HVS and VKH 2007, BTS 2007)

Animals are to a limited extent treated with homeopathic remedies in Switzerland. No accurate figures on the treatment of animals currently exist. No legislation within the area exists, thus it is not illegal to treat animals with homeopathic remedies.

The Berufsverband der TierheilpraktikerInnen Schweiz (BTS) is an organisation for CAM practitioners treating animals. Homeopathy is one of the main therapies applied by practitioners, who treat both acute and chronic diseases in pets and farm animals. Treatment is also provided for behavioural problems, and practitioners may offer advice on issues such as nutrition, how to raise animals and questions related to the purchase of animals.

The BTS provides a list of 11 practising members whereof 10 offer homeopathic treatment. Treatment is available for larger and smaller animals including dogs, cats, birds, horses and cattle. The association also offers postgraduate education and training, support for practitioners establishing their practice, and facilitation of exchange of experience between practitioners. The BTS encourages cooperation between CAM practitioners and veterinarians, in particular to provide clinical diagnosis and conventional treatment when necessary, as well as aiming to reduce of the use of antibiotics and cortisone in the treatment of animals.

The organisation recommends education and training of about 1500 hours, including 500 hours of medical training, 700 hours of education and training in CAM therapies (including homeopathy) and 300 hours on the caretaking of animals. Younger students are recommended to first carry out studies

in areas such as animal medicine, animal nursing or agriculture. The association recommends three courses including the ATN AG Akademie für Tiernaturheilkunde, which is a distant learner course, the Schule für klassische Naturheilkunde in Zürich and the Paramed Zentrum für Komplementärmedizin in Baar. As an example the animal homeopathy course provided by the Schule für klassische Naturheilkunde in Zürich includes 1200 hours of teaching divided into 600 hours of homeopathy education and 600 hours of medical training (SNHK 2007).

United Kingdom (SoH 2007)

There is anecdotal evidence that animals are treated with homeopathic remedies in the United Kingdom. Precise statistics are not available, but it appears that many pet owners, horse owners and some farmers use homeopathy to treat their animals. Homeopathy is also used by British farmers to treat livestock. In particular, homeopathy is used within the organic farming industry. Most commonly animals are treated for first aid situations and more specifically cats and dogs are treated for conditions ranging from traumas to chronic complaints and behavioural difficulties. The treatment of animals is regulated by the Veterinary Surgeons act and laws relating to production of food animals. It is illegal for homeopaths who are not veterinarians to treat animals. Pet owners may however treat their own animals. Some education in veterinary homeopathy exists. A four-year homeopathy course is available for veterinarians. Pet owners may participate at shorter seminars and four-day courses are available for farmers, such as the Homeopathy at Wellie Level Course. A number of research articles have been published.

Reference list

Adamsson U and Anebo H. Personal communication, 15.08.2007.

Arcanum. http://www.arcanum-utbildning.se/frameset/utbildningar.php (23.09.2007)

Arnesson, Per; Jörgenfelt, Chris; Larsson, Lisbeth. (1999) Dokumentation av Homeopati för Nötkreatur. Tibro.

Association for Classical Homeopathy ”Hahnemann” (ACHH). Personal communication, 06.04.2007.

Asociatión Espanola de Homeopatas Unicistas (AEHU). Personal communication, 27.03.2007.

Ahlvers-Zylka, Frauke. Personal communication 11.03.2007.

Berufsverband klassischer TierhomöopathInnen Deutschlands (BkTD). Personal communication 11.03.2007.

Berufsverband der TierheilpraktikerInnen Schweiz (BTS) www.tierheilpraktikerverband.ch (15.07.2007)

Czech Republic for Classical Homeopathy (CACH). Personal communication 26.09.2007.

De Verdier Klingenberg, Kerstin; Öhagen, Patrik; Alenius, Stefan. (2001) Utvärdering av effekten av homeopatisk behandling vid kalvdiarré. Svensk Veterinär tidning, Volym 53, Nr 14.

European Council. Council Regulation (EC) No 1804/1999 of 19 July 1999 supplementing Regulation EC No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring there on agricultural products and foodstuffs to include livestock production.

European Parliament and Council. (2004) Directive 2004/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on 31 March 2004 amending Directive 2001/82/EC of the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products.

Homeopaths’ Association of Greece (HAG). Personal communication 18.04.2007.

Hallamaa, Raija. (2001) Treatment of equine summer eczema with an autogenous serum preparation. Zeitschrift für Onkologie 33, 57-62.

Hatledal, Lise. Personal communication, 26.03.2007.

Hatledal, Lise and Stigar, Tonje. (2003) Natrumedisin for din hund. ISBN 9788292682005.

Hektoen, Lisbeth. (2004) Homeopatic treatment of farm animals. Studies of utilisation, effects and implications for animal health and welfare. http://www.veths.no/templates/Page.aspx?id=984 (31.08.2007) Avlagt doktorgrad ved Norges veterinærhøgskole. Første doktorgrad i Norge på homøopatisk behandling.
http://www.veths.no/upload/Majken/Pressemeldinger/Lisbeth%20Hektoen.doc 14.12.2004

Henriksson, E. (1997) Homeopatibehandling på mjölkkor. Examensarbete i Lantmästarprogrammet, Inst. för jordbrukets biosystem och teknologi, Alnarp.

Holt, Sandra, Läkemedelsverket. Personal communication, 11.12.20076.

Homeopathic Society of Bulgaria (HSB). Personal communication 20.06.2007.

Homöopathie Verband Schweiz (HVS) and Verband Klassischer HomöopathInnen (VKH). Personal communication 21.03.2007, 07.08.2007.

International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH), 2005.

Irish Society of Homeopaths (ISH). Personal communication 20.06.2007.

Israeli Association for Classical Homeopathy (IACH). Personal communication 03.04.2007.

Jörgenfelt, Chris, Svenskt center för klassisk homeopati AB. Personal communication, 22.03.2007, 20.08.2007.

Kastebrink, S-E. (1996) Studie av homeopatiskt behandlade kor med diverse åkommor. Stencil. May be ordered from the author at + 46 (0)586 73 20 06.

KTMa 773/2000. http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/kokoelma/2000/20000107.pdf (01.10.2007)

Lagen 1994:844 om behörighet att utöva veterinäryrket, Sweden.

"Law of Health" 29.07.2004, chapter 6 "Non-conventional methods for favourable influence on individual health".

Liga Homeopatica Classica (LHC). Personal communication, 21.03.2007, 10.08.2007.

Lindström, Bo, chief legal advisor, Läkemedelsverket. Personal communication, November/December 2006.

Loor, H. (1997) Homeopati på ko – en ny behandlingsmetod i mjölkproduktionen? Fördjupningsarbete, SLU, Inst. för idisslarmedicin och epidemiologi, Uppsala. May be ordered from SLU at + 46 (0)18 67 25 04.

Luonnonmukainen tuotanto – luomueläinten terveydenhuolto ja lääkintä.
http://wwwb.mmm.fi/el/julk/el/01/02/index.html#8 (01.10.2007)

Läkemedelsverkets föreskrifter (LVFS). 7 § Införsel genom försändelser m.m. 1996:5.

Mohr, Peter. Personal communication 11.04.2007.

Norske Homeopaters Landsforbund (NHL). Personal communication 09.04.2007, 14.08.2007.

Organization of Classical Homeopathy (OCH). Personal communication, 18.03.2007.

Persson Waller, Karin; Beyer, Wilbert; Ekman, Torkel. (1998) Veterinär homeopati till landbrukets djur – en sammanställning av vetenskapliga forsök. Rapport, SLU, Inst. för obstetrik och gynekologi, Uppsala. ISBN 91-576-5570-7.

Riksförbundet för klassisk djurhomeopati (RKDH). Personal communication, 21.03.2007.

Schule für klassische Naturheilkunde in Zürich (SNHK). www.naturheilkunde.ch (31.08.2007)

Society of Homeopaths (SoH). Personal communication, 19.07.2007.

Society of Homeopaths of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SHBH). Personal communication, 06.03.2007.

Statens jordbruksverks föreskrifter, Veterinärer och homeopatika, i lagstiftningen, C16, 2006:88.

Ståhl, Ylva. (1997) Kartläggning av homeopatianvändning inom mjölkproduktion. Stencil. May be ordered form SHS, Eskistuna, tel. + 46 (0)16 16 34 00.

Suomen Homeopaatit ry (SH). Personal communication 20.03.2007.

Svenska Akademin för Klassisk Homeopati (SAKH). Personal communication, 04.03.2007.

Svenska Travsportens Centralförbund, Karenstider för vissa preparat/substanser och vissa andra särskilda åtgärder. www.travsport.se/svetfraga?kommando=karensTider (31.08.2007)

Wolter, H. (1966) Arzneiwirkungsprüfung an Caulophyllum D30. Prakt. Tierarzt 47, 431-432, 496-501.

Øhren, Anneli. () Naturmedisin for dyr. ISBN 8210043137.

Appendix A: Course curriculum for the Animalmundi school for animal homeopathy, Germany.

Animalmundi

standards for education in respect of the guidelines of the ECCH

			contact learning		privat learning
	days	U a´ 45 Min	teaching hours		
			presence	distant learning	private homestudies
Homeopathy	5	8 U = 6h	30	15	80
Vet-medicine	5	8 U = 6h	30	15	80
Ethology	2	8 U = 6h	12	6	34
Gesamt	12	8 U = 6h	72	36	194
Homeopahty	20	8 U = 6h	120	60	420
Materia medica	24	8 U = 6h	144	72	440
Vet-medicine	44	8 U = 6h	264	132	720
Ethology	12	8 U = 6h	72	36	200
PY - Seminare	12	8 U = 6h	72	36	200
PY - Practical training	24	8 U = 6h	144	72	100
amonunt			888	444	2274
			total contact learning =	**1332**	
				total including private homestudies =	**3606**

for the student it means an average of 1.5 hours a day

agenda: U = teaching units

Appendix B: Course curriculum for animal homeopath course provided by the Orsa Lärcentrum in cooperation with Svenskt Center för Klassisk Homeopati AB, Sweden.

Study plan	T1	T2	T3	T4	Total
Introduction and study techniques	19	25	26	36	105
Basic course	10	12	13	17	50
Animal health	26	36	39	51	150
Ethiology	10	12	13	17	50
Dogs	10	12	13	17	50
Horses	26	36	39	51	150
Alternative medicine	10	12	13	17	50
Project work	17	24	26	34	100
Diseases in pets	34	47	51	66	200
Homeopathy – clinical work with animals	34	47	51	66	200
Diseases in food producing animals	34	47	51	66	200
Homeopathic treatment of animals – chronic diseases	34	47	51	66	200
Homeopathic treatment of animals – acute diseases and injuries	34	47	51	66	200
Repertory knowledge for homeopathic treatment	34	48	51	66	200
Holistic philosophy in treatment of diseases	34	48	52	64	200
Total	365	500	540	700	2105

Note: The figures listed above represent number of hours of teaching.

The basic items are further divided into the following:
- Anatomy and physiology, incl. growth and development
- Clinical examination of animals
- Hygiene
- Prevention of work related injuries
- Diseases in pets, horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats,
- Legislation incl. environmental and animal protection legislation
- Ethics
- Research
- Materia medica (25 major remedies and several small and specific remedies)
- Posology incl. potency and dosage
- Repertorisation
- Homeopathy philosophy incl. Hahnemann: Organon, Kent: Lectures of Homeopathic Philosophy
- Video cases
- Live cases: 1-3 live cases per seminar

Clinical training includes:
- 2 days clinical practice in a dairy farm
- 2-5 days clinical practice in a veterinary clinic for pets
- 2-5 days clinical practice with a regional veterinarian
- Optional: Clinical practice in a larger veterinary clinic / ATG clinic (such a clinic specialises in treating racing horses)

Total of 50 to 90 hours clinical studies.