

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 67 (2001)
Heft: [8]

Rubrik: Your corner... : homeopathy in animal health

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Your Corner..

HOMEOPATHY IN ANIMAL HEALTH

Homeopathy for use in animal health care sees a growing trend in farming. It provides an option in reducing costs but is affordable, and is an effective and efficient way of animal husbandry. This concept is relatively new to us (Doris, Trudy and families) on our farms, although we have been using it as a remedy for ourselves for years. But more and more we have come to the conclusion that treating '*like with like*' must have far greater benefit and less side effects for our animals and our pockets. So we have been keen to try out homeopathic remedies especially in controlling cell counts and mastitis in cows, as well as a preventative measures in pre calving. I remember Tony (Trudy's husband) looking with some astonishment at the little pills, with instructions - five of them from 'packet number one' and five from 'packet number two', - for the contents of the trough big enough to provide water for our middle-sized herd. Is that really all it takes, we wondered? These packages provide medication that stimulates the animal's natural defense system and healing mechanism.

Do you know, what Homoeopathy means? My dictionary says; Homeopathy or Homoeopathy, a method of treating disease by the use of small amounts of a drug that produces symptoms of the disease in healthy animals or people.

A little bit about the history of homoeopathy

The founder of Homoeopathy was Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician and scholar. (1755 - 1843) Hahnemann became disillusioned with the practise of medicine of his day because of the harsh and brutal

treatments such as, mercury treatment, bleeding, purging, and blistering. These treatments were relatively ineffective as cures and caused terrible side effects for patients. As a result Hahnemann gave up medicine and began to translate medical books for a living. While translating Dr. William Cullen's book "Lectures on the Materia Medica", Hahnemann found what was to become the key to the development of homeopathy.

The Greek word Homeopathy with the meaning "*like cures like*" consists of two parts; Homeo = Similar and Pathos = Suffering. It is a system of medicine, which selects (for the treatment of a disease), a substance that has the power to provoke similar signs and symptoms in a healthy body. Most homeopathic substances are herbal or plant in origin and are known by their Latin or botanical name. E.g. *Arnica montana*=Arnica used for injuries, a fall, a blow, or after surgery. Treating '*like with like*' for the treatment of mastitis, Homoeopathy uses a form of putrid milk.

Why use homeopathy? I believe it is a safe and effective natural form of healing for animals and people. It does not suppress any symptoms for later reappearance, enhances health, shortens the duration of the disease, and has no side effects or drug residues.

The key to successfully using Homeopathy is to assess the precise symptoms and correlate this with the correct research data on the remedies. Take heart, if the incorrect remedy is administered, it simply will not work, you will not kill an animal, you will just have to reassess your symptom picture once more and start again.

Trudy and Doris

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"No more Rifles in the Wardrobe"

The hurdles for Switzerland to become part of the "Schengen Accord" are getting more difficult to overcome. The military and shooters are concerned by the "express strategy" of Ruth Metzler's Justice Department.

But firstly, what is the "Schenger Accord"?

In 1985, the leaders from Germany, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg met in the small Luxemburg village of Schengen (pop. 350) to discuss the removal of their common frontiers so as to make controls superfluous. Today, most EU countries, as well as some non-EU countries, are partners to this accord. It is now possible to travel from Spitzbergen in the north, to Lisbon in the south, without hindrance.

Included in the accord are matters relating to internal security; wider Police co-operation, such as chasing criminals across borders; and the keeping of centralised records of Asylum seekers.

Earlier this year, Swiss Federal Councillor, Joseph Deiss (Foreign Affairs), contacted the EU with the view of Switzerland becoming part of the "Schengen Accord". After a closer look at what this will ultimately mean to the country, the cantons now fear that the