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Feature Article

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Dr. Wiendieck presented this lecture at Heel symposia in Mexico City, Tijuana, and San Francisco in March, 1988. It serves as a brief introduction to his veterinary practice specializing in treatment of horses. A native of Germany, Dr. Wiendieck received his veterinary degree in 1942 and for twenty years has employed only biological preparations and acupuncture in his equine therapy.

I am a veterinarian in internal medicine and have been living in the USA for 4 years. Since 1968 I have been using exclusively biological products. In all these years, I have been able to observe that horses respond in a particularly positive manner to these products and there have never been any side effects. It can happen, however, that in using these products a critical phase of the illness has to be coped with, and that in the beginning the fever may even increase due to the use of products. However, if this happens there is no reason for alarm because viruses and bacteria are being killed or at least rendered harmless by increased body temperature. Dr. Reckeweg once said: "It depends on my therapy and the organism in question whether the excretion phase occurs which is characterized by the excretion of the virus toxins which have been bound and rendered harmless, or whether the progressive vicariation into the degeneration phase occurs. Allopathic medicines only serve to arrest symptoms which block the defense mechanisms of the body and through progressive vicariation, reach the degeneration phase."

This means that in most cases, allopathic medicines do nothing but arrest symptoms, such as a decrease in temperature or an alleviation of cough in the case of a flu with simultaneous blocking of defense mechanisms. Biological products, on the other hand, strengthen the defense mechanism of the body and eliminate the functional weakness of an organism without making it necessary to deal with a prolonged convalescence.

Now I would like to report in somewhat more detail about my experiences with the products Traumeel, Gripp-Heel, and Engystol which have been particularly reliable in fighting flus. Flu, which is known to veterinarians rather as influenza equorum, has become one of the major complications of our time, due to the fact that there are always and continuously great numbers of horses on race tracks and at tournaments, which implies long transports and continuous stress. Stress increases blood flow into the muscles, the lungs, the heart, and the brain, and since in any body there are many viruses in a latent state, these are thus secreted to an increasing extent. As influenza equorum is highly contagious, the illness, once it occurs, very often reaches epidemic proportions.

If horses are permitted to rest, not only when they have a fever or cough, and if they are put into well-aired, dry stables, the course of the illness may be relatively benign and without any major complications. The contrary will be true, however, if horses which have been infected and which cough, although showing no symptoms of fever, are not given the necessary rest. Complications are most certain to arise which will make the cough chronic and finally may lead to a lung edema.

Among standard breeds and gallopers, the highest incidence of influenza occurs in the group of 1 to 1½ year-olds. If training starts as early as that, one has to remember that horses at that age are anything but fully grown and, therefore, simply unable to cope with the demands they are confronted with.

For years, it has been attempted to solve the problem of influenza by giving yearly vaccinations. However, the effect of these vaccinations does not last - most recent studies reportedly show an effect of no more than 2 to 3 months - which means that especially on the race tracks, horses are being vaccinated 4 or 5 times a year. This again means that the spontaneous

healing powers of the body are increasingly undermined. And in spite of the fact that vaccination calendars are followed most scrupulously, time and again, vaccination breakthroughs occur. Also, many horses which are subjected to such massive vaccinations, - the flu vaccinations not being the only ones - simply cannot perform any more. That is why many trainers do not want to be bothered any longer with vaccinations, saying they are a waste of time and money.

I treat equine flu as follows:

Every second day until an improvement occurs - in severe cases daily - 1 ampule each of Engystol and Traumeel which, for animal use, exist in 5 ml dosages, together with 5 ml Gripp-Heel. These products are always mixed with some milliliters of blood which gives a much higher effect and are injected at the following acupuncture points: small intestine 11 behind the shoulder blades, governor 13 behind the withers and triple heater 15 at the upper trapezius border in the middle of the shoulder. I increase cardioactive support with Cactus compositum, depending on the case. In between days I administer Traumeel liquid at triple the human dosage, and in the mornings and evenings, one ampule of Engystol orally together with 5 tablets of Gripp-Heel 3 times daily. Excellent results have, in addition, been achieved with a thymus preparation which, in this country, is difficult to find, but in Germany is easily available at the Veterinary Medical Department of Heel where it is always freshly produced. It is important to know that an immune response deficiency is directly related to the functioning of the thymus gland; if the thymus gland stops functioning, the whole immune system breaks down. If the products mentioned above are given immediately when the illness occurs, flu can be fought and healed successfully which means that the organism is brought back into its reaction phase. Traumeel does not only prevent the progress of an

infection, it also prevents a possible relapse. Engystol stimulates the excretion phase and the immune system. An insufficient immune response which occurs during all viral infections, and therefore also in cases of flu, is strengthened with the help of Engystol. And just as is the case with Traumeel, Engystol can bring back the organism into the reaction phase, the crucial point being the immediate application of both products.

Gripp-Heel - a name derived from the German word for flu = Grippe - is particularly important as it has the capacity to prevent the deterioration of the flu into secondary infections. Gripp-Heel is also highly effective in the treatment of other catarrhal diseases. In my opinion, the Aconitum and Lachesis this product contains are particularly effective in treating cases of flu.

In cases of lameness, Traumeel is especially to be recommended. The lameness of horses has increased dramatically do to the so-called progressive upbringing. Because of a nutritional imbalance which implies an excessive feeding of protein and energy-rich food components, horses are growing too fast and in many cases are overweight. Therefore, they do not have the necessary hardness and, without hardness, high performance is impossible, at least over a prolonged period of time. In addition to that, as mentioned before, horses start working at too young an age. This means that, contrary to former times, veterinarians have to cure many more inflammations of the joints, tendons, and muscles and back problems. In most cases in order to achieve quick success, horses are treated with Buta, and very often tendons and joints with Cortisone. However, I never treat lame horses with Cortisone or Buta since in my opinion, it is simply not necessary. Traumeel is a wonderful drug for the treatment of lameness. I inject it 3 times a week, again always mixed with blood in conjunction with acupuncture. Lameness which is often caused by muscle spasm in the back area can be treated particularly successfully with Traumeel, if it is injected at the correct acupuncture points of the bladder meridian. This procedure does require, however, that needles are left in the different points for about 20 minutes.

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