

Biological Medicine for Horses

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Summary

The use of homeopathic preparations in horses, and in this case sports horses in particular, frequently produces surprising effects. Experience with medicaments in various areas of application is reported.

It is often surprising what a rapid effect occurs with some homeopathic preparations. On the other hand, improvement or recovery occurs very slowly in other cases, but is readily maintainable, or at least more maintainable than where chemical preparations are used.

I would like to discuss the use of homeopathic preparations in horses, and in this case in sports horses in particular, on the basis of my experience.

The first preparation I would like to discuss is the one I use most frequently, namely

Traumeel: A preparation which due to its composition displays outstanding effects in inflammations, sprains, contusions, haemorrhages and many other conditions. Almost in every one of the cases of this kind that I encounter, I inject at least 1 x 8-10 ml Traumeel and subsequently use the Traumeel ointment.

Use of the ointment requires particular care on the part of the person giving treatment or the person who is to rub in the ointment, since a fairly dense coat of hair must be penetrated in the case of the horse. In some cases I have been able to gain permission to shave the site to be treated, but not every horse owner is prepared to let this be done. Nevertheless, even where it is used through the coat, and particularly the less dense

the intestines. Post-treatment is then given consisting of 10 ml Spasucpreel on each of one or two days, which also leads to rapid restoration of intestinal or digestive activity.

The droppings show normal moistness again and the horse seems to recover very quickly. The same outcome can be achieved with a post-injection of Nux vomica-Homaccord and Veratrum-Homaccord mixed in equal proportions, i.e. 5 ml of each.

In the case of so-called nervous horses, which are very agitated and nervous and hence rather difficult to ride in tournaments, I have achieved high success rates with administration of Phosphor-Homaccord, which is also administered subcutaneously, in a dose of 10 ml for a few days. A change in the animal's condition occurs very rapidly, usually after the first administration and it becomes calmer at least when working or training. It is interesting to note that only after a rather longer period - about 2 to 3 weeks - does a genuine calming of the horse occur which usually lasts for an entire showjumping season. Horses which previously shied from every leap on the ground or were very timid or would not carry out their tasks where there were flags flapping, subsequently walk calmly past fluttering flags and perform as required.

Phosphorus in D30 (30X) can certainly also be given as a single remedy, but I consider the effect of Phosphor-Homaccord to be longer-lasting and also quicker-acting due to its being composed of several individual remedies.

In the recent past, I made the attempt with horses which take part in tournaments a great deal, to administer Valerianaeel in the form of drops. 20 drops were given three times a day. A further 20 drops can be given on hard bread just before the tournament or before riding off to the tournament. Since I have only received reports from some of the showjumpers, I am unable as yet to give findings on the effect or the successfulness of Valerianaeel.

Of course, I also use individual remedies and I would like to say something about these now. In cases of tussis and bronchitis I have always achieved successful outcomes in the past with Acidum formicum-Injeel forte mixed with the animal's own blood. The dose of Acidum formicum always stays the same at 10 ml, but every third day 10 ml more of the animal's blood is administered, usually a distinct improvement occurs after three treatments and a successful outcome can be achieved with inhalation or administration of Drosera-Homaccord.

In cases of soft hooves or broken edges, particularly in animals whose hind hooves were not shod, successful treatment has always been achieved in the past with Silicea D30 (30X), administered three times a day. The hooves became smooth and hard, and at the next shoeing the blacksmiths were astonished at the change in the hoof. These successes were confirmed by the Orthopaedic Clinic of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna.

At the same clinic, trials were also carried out in nervous horses with Stramonium D200 (200X). Administration was carried out three times a day with a dose of 20 globules. The calming effect was not as significant as where Phosphorus was administered.

As post-treatment for inflammation of the hoof dermis, I have used Arnica D12 (12X) and Belladonna D4(4X). In each case 20 drops of each remedy were administered three times a day and the success of time, treatment was obvious. In the course of time, the animals were able to put their weight fully on all four hooves and showed no signs of favouring a diseased limb in the horse-box or stall, and similarly recovery for work and performance in the arena was very rapid and never took longer than a week.

In horses which were already stiff from old age, Harpagophytum D3 (3X) proved an excellent remedy. In such cases, adminis-