



Review Article

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HOMEOPATHIC DE-WORMING: A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR CANINES

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ABSTRACT

Homeopathy has a definite place in veterinary medicine today. Veterinarians are definitely becoming more aware of the need for and showing more interest in homeopathic medicine. Homeopathy as non-invasive treatment with few or no side effects that have the potential to heal animals should be welcomed¹. As already known, Homeopathy isn't just for people, but it is also **safe for dogs. It is safe because, we use minimum dose, simple remedies with no side effects. Homeopaths choose a remedy based on the symptoms, not the disease.** That's why the same remedies work for the same symptoms, whether it's for us or dogs. As there are few articles and less research in veterinary homeopathy, our quest is to bring out the efficacy of homeopathic remedies in treating parasitic worms in dogs.

KEYWORDS - homeopathy, veterinary, dogs, de- worming, homeopathic therapeutics

INTRODUCTION

Dogs are humans most faithful friend. They suffer various diseases, the treatment for the most of the diseases is limited. One of the commonest diseases they suffer from is parasitic

worm infestation. It is most common problem for the pet parents. There are different kinds of parasitic worm that infest dogs, the most common ones are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms and heartworms. All age groups of dogs can be affected with worms. Adult dogs with mild infestations can live seemingly healthy lives. Weak and malnourished pets are more at risk for severe blood loss and even fatalities. Homeopathy as a therapeutic system of medicine its approach in treating parasitic infestation in dogs is not new as it already done by many veterinary practioners across the world.

ENDO-PARASITIC INFESTATIONS IN DOGS²

Common endo-parasites that infest dogs are

1. Toxocaracanis(Ascarid worm)
2. Ancylostomacanthum(hookworm)
3. Trichurisvulpis (whip worm)
4. Filaroidesosler (tracheal worm)
5. Angiostrongylusvasorum (vessel worm)
6. Dirofilariaimmitis (heart worm)
7. Spirocercalupi.S.aretica (oesophageal worm)
8. Strongyloidesstrecoralis (thread worm)
9. Capillaria plica, C. hepatica (bladder worm)
10. Dioctophymarenali (kidney worm)
11. Thelaziacallipaedia (eye worm)
12. Diphyliumcaninum
13. Echinococcusgranulosus
14. Isosporabigemina
15. Giardia cains (giardiasis)
16. Entamoebahistolytica (amoebiasis)
17. Toxoplamagondii (toxoplasmosis)

CLINICAL FEATURES²

GIT- anorexia, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting, intestinal obstruction, abdominal distension, mal-absorption. Bloody diarrhea, tarry coloured feces, rubbing of anus

RESPIRATORY- Certain parasitic larvae on migration produce dyspnoea, cough, epistaxis and respiratory distress(trachea-bronchitis).

SKIN-eczema(hookworm dermatitis),

CVS- Damage of right ventricle of heart and pulmonary artery

RENAL SYSTEM- Ascites, nephritis, hematuria, hemoglobinuria, cystitis and cloudy urine, hydro-nephrosis(kidney worm)

CNS- Convulsions, dullness, chorea, paralysis

EYE- Conjunctivitis, lacrymation, photophobia, keratitis (eye worm)

OTHER- Progressive loss of body weight, emaciation, unthriftiness, early exhaustion, stunted growth. Anemia, poor exercise intolerance. Poor blood clotting, edema

The most common sign include- passage of worm through feces

DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA²

1. Clinical signs
2. Detection of ova, eggs in faeces
3. Eosinophilia
4. Hypoalbuminemia
5. Detection of larvae in the sputum, feces, and tracheal exudates
6. Detection of microfilaria in direct smear
7. ELISA test
8. Radiography
9. Oesophagoscopy
10. Detection of worm in conjunctival sac(eye worm)
11. Detection of ova in urinary sediment (kidney worm)

MANAGEMENT²

1. Clean and hygienic environment has to be provided
2. Transmammary transmission is a feature, therefore mother dog should be brought under routine examination
3. Avoid crowding of animals
4. Dog house should be kept dry

HOMEOPATHIC THERAPEUTICS³

1. FILIX MASS-

A Remedy for worms, especially with constipation. Tapeworm. Diarrhea and vomiting. Abdominal distension

2. GRANATUM –

As a vermifuge for the expulsion of tapeworm³. Constant hunger, poor digestion, looses flesh. Vomiting at night. Itching in the anus⁴

3. CINA –

Intestinal irritation by worms, vomiting and diarrhea immediately after eating, itching in anus. It is best remedy for roundworms

4. ARSENIC ALBUM –

Indicted in vomiting and diarrhoea occur at same time³. Great desire for water immediately vomited after. Dysentery dark bloody very offensive⁴

5. CROTON TIGLIUM-

Chronic diarrhoea especially frequent watery stools.³

6. MERCURIUS CORROSIVUS-

Frequent urging and with great straining³. Dysentery. Stool bloody, offensive, slimy with shreds of mucous membranes⁴.

7. CALCAREA PHOSPHORICA-

Craving for unnatural indigestible things like chalk, clay and charcoal. Anemia and wasting⁴

8. NUX VOMICA –

Anorexia due to ill effects of overeating, ravenous hunger , alternate diarrhea and constipation

9. CHELONE GLABRA-

It is useful remedy for round worms and threadworms. It is an enemy to every kind of worm infestations⁴.

CONCLUSION

This article shows the effectiveness of homeopathic medicines in treating worms that affect canines. As homeopathy uses minimum dose of medicine with least side effects, it is the most effective therapeutic system of medicine. Thus homeopathy has its effective role in canines

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