

Homeopathy for Animals

Insights from Veterinary Practice

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Note

Throughout this book scientific names are shown in *italics* and common names of source materials are in lower case. Homeopathic remedies are shown thus: Arsenicum album or as abbreviations (Arsen. alb.).

*To Jane for Love and Learning
and to Basho who just Is*



*And for Chris Day MA VetMB VetFFHom MRCVS
(1947–2023)
My North Star*

FOREWORD

As an international lecturer to the homeopathic profession of many years standing, the greatest satisfaction and fulfilment I have experienced in teaching has been when addressing my homeopathic veterinary colleagues, which I have often done in the UK and Ireland, but also as far afield as Denmark and Latvia. This pleasure has always been augmented by the great warmth and hospitality I have received on such occasions and the deep and lasting friendships that my wife Paddy and I have made. Amongst these, none could be more important to me than the friendship of Peter Gregory, the author of this very special book. A fellow Yorkshireman, he's from Sheffield, the city of steel, and myself from Leeds, in years past, the city of coal – coal and steel – inseparable, one to the other – hence, kindred spirits – fully in accord, though each suffering independently from the oftentimes painful fortunes of Sheffield Wednesday and Leeds United.

Peter epitomises those qualities that have so appealed to me in my professional and personal contact with homeopathic vets over the past twenty years: their kindness, their humanity, their compassion, their commitment, their reverence for nature and their joy in practising their profession: a calling driven by love and concern for the patients in their care. This selfless sincerity and earnestness of duty extends to the broader and pressing issues of a challenged environment, the consequences of climate change, threatened habitats, and man's desecration of planet Earth. While there are certainly homeopathic doctors who embody these noble attributes, nonetheless, in the instance of the homeopathic vet these virtues would seem to characterise the profession as a whole – a hallmark denoting all – borne out in their remarkable comradeship and togetherness: a blood-brother bonding rarely seen in professional bodies – least of all homeopathic, which, since Hahnemann's bitter conflict with his Leipzig colleagues to the present day, have been strangely fraught with heated and sometimes deprecating discord.

Underlying these admirable traits is one more subtle and profound: an intuitive sensitivity born of tending the needs of the pure and innocent

and of urging every faculty to apprehend the symptoms and signs of patients who cannot articulate their history or give voice to their anguish. This alertness to difference and degree, this reading of conduct and demeanour, this empathetic reaching out for resonance with a fellow creature, coupled to the singularly searching nature of the homeopathic enquiry, ensure that the heightened intuitive mode of feeling is finely developed, enabling interpretation of nuances of mood, behaviour and appearance that would elude the unattuned mind. Honed by years of experience, this psychic empathy raises the consciousness of the healer to a level of comprehension and insight well-removed from the materialistic vision of medical science.

In *Homeopathy for Animals*, Peter consummately brings to his exposition of major remedies of the homeopathic materia medica all these innate skills in a manner that is highly engaging and informative. Readers find themselves sitting beside him in the consulting room or even upon the floor, the better to sense, feel and communicate with their patient. Unlike so many similar works, human and animal, this work is not just a desk-top companion or compilation of facts; it transports the reader into the intriguing world of a gifted homeopathic vet and creates a personal experience that lives on in the memory. Under the supervision of a master one is taught to apply all one's senses to the task of diagnosis and to develop a level of apprehension and discernment beyond the ordinary. Above all is the appreciation of the patient as a multidimensional being in every way as sensitive, vulnerable and significant as a human. The book is threaded through with the author's reverence for animal-life, not least of all, exhibited in his gratitude and love for the wonderfully named dogs who have blessed his personal life.

The book could not be better titled for '*insights*' is its constant theme. These observations gleaned from hands-on practice are invaluable. The work is further enriched by the seamless translation of human homeopathic lore into animal terms and in this cross-pollination lies the book's further virtue for the acumen it contains happily translates back into human terms. This is a book to be valued not only by the homeopathic vet but also by the homeopathic physician. The text is wide ranging and covers important aspects of the philosophy, principles and practice of homeopathic healing. It confirms and expands knowledge of well-known remedies and is an exercise in the lateral thinking essential to the interpretation of a patient's myth and a symptom's metaphor. I would particularly recommend it for those involved in paediatric practice; for those whose patients, in one way or another, lack a voice; and for those who need to fathom that which is repressed and hidden – in short – a book for all!

Dr David Lilley

part one

FOUNDATIONS



1

TOWARDS A DYNAMIC VIEW OF HOMEOPATHY: THE REMEDIES

I can't say that homeopathy is right in everything. What I can say now is that the high dilutions are right. High dilutions of something are not nothing. They are water structures which mimic the original molecules.

Luc Montagnier (winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine 2008)¹

Potentiation

There is no doubt that homeopathic remedies exert their action on the level of energetic phenomena. To anyone who has read the *Organon* this is self-evident; Hahnemann explained the effects he observed by developing the concept of what he termed the 'Dynamis'. This is often translated as the 'Vital Force' or the 'Vital Energy', but these translations miss the fundamental concept within the Dynamis, which is that of a system constantly in motion, or in vibration; a force can be potential and an electromagnetic frequency can exhibit some kind of stability, or coherence, but the essential quality of the Dynamis is that it is continually changing. The homeopathic method depends on administering to a patient a substance which is capable of reproducing that patient's symptoms in a healthy individual. Thus arsenic can cause vomiting and diarrhoea of a particular nature, so if we have a patient suffering from a similar set of symptoms then the administration of homeopathic Arsenic can be curative. This phenomenon does not depend on the dose of the remedy, however Hahnemann initially found that the symptoms were aggravated (made worse) before the healing process began, and to reduce the severity of these aggravations he experimented with dilutions of the remedies. He discovered that while simple serial dilution reduced the effectiveness of the medicine, if the solution was vigorously agitated between each stage of dilution, not only were the aggravations reduced, but the remedies actually became more powerful. As there seemed to be an increase in the energetic potential, he termed this process

'dynamisation' (also translated as potentisation), once again using a word of the same linguistic root as the one he chose to describe the energetic system as a whole.

It is common usage to refer to potentised medicines as 'homeopathic' medicines but, strictly speaking, a medicine is only 'homeopathic' if it is prescribed on the basis of the homeopathic effect; indeed a medicine may be used homeopathically without having been potentised.

Ideally, the prescription of a homeopathic remedy is based on all the symptoms exhibited by the patient, the 'totality', and we often describe the pattern of symptoms associated with a particular remedy as a 'remedy picture' or a 'remedy state'. However, in doing so it is easy to forget that we are not dealing with a static phenomenon. We may observe an animal who appears to be standing in a state of stability, but in reality the muscles of the whole body are constantly checking and balancing the position; in the same way the Dynamis is in constant flux, maintaining the system in the state of relative homeostasis we think of as health. For this reason, some authors prefer to use the term 'remedy dynamic', however in this book I have chosen to use the term 'remedy state', while accepting that that 'state' is a dynamic one.

Several systems of potentisation are used in the manufacture of homeopathic remedies, but the most common is to use a dilution factor of 1 in 100. This scale of dilution is referred to as the 'centesimal' scale and the potency of the remedies so produced are denoted by a 'c'; hence after 6 stages of dilution and succussion we have a 6c potency. Another common scale of potency is the decimal ('D' or 'X') scale where the dilution factor is 1 in 10. Above the 12th centesimal potency or the 24th decimal potency, there is an inordinately small statistical chance of there remaining even a single molecule of the original substance. On the other hand there is increasing evidence of the existence of 'nanoparticles' in potentised solutions, which may go some way to explaining their activity.^{2,3} Indeed Iris Bell and her co-workers have proposed an elegant theory of how homeopathy might work, based on these findings.⁴

The 'memory of water'

I have no doubt that the major obstacle to the general acceptance of homeopathy by mainstream medicine has always been that of the high dilutions employed in producing the higher potencies. Nevertheless, the phenomenon of potentisation has attracted the attention of some eminent scientists from outside the sphere of homeopathy, and considerable effort

has been spent over the years in examining the biological activity of homeopathic medicines whose dilutions exceed the level of 12c. The existence of such activity has been proven beyond all reasonable doubt; there have been numerous experiments showing an effect on biological systems as diverse as growing wheat seedlings and developing froglets. Central to this understanding is the concept of the 'memory of water', a term coined after Benveniste's work on degranulation of basophils in 1988.⁵ Many scientists and homeopaths consider that he was treated outrageously by his scientific colleagues, in particular by the editorial board of *Nature* who published the original paper. However, subsequent experiments examining the system of histamine and degranulation of basophils were conclusive to all but the most closed of minds.^{6,7}

It is therefore no longer acceptable, from a scientific point of view, to dismiss homeopathy as implausible, simply on the basis of the dilution factor of the remedies. Nevertheless, in the light of this, it behoves the scientist to look for an explanation of this activity. Logically, if the activity does not lie in the source material (the solute) then it must lie in the carrier liquid (the water or alcohol: the solvent).

So how can we explain this phenomenon?

Let us look at the process of potentisation more closely, using as an example a simple solution of common salt, the source material for the homeopathic remedy *Natrum muriaticum*. Our starting point is a solution in water or alcohol. Both of these are polar solvents, that is, they separate into positive and negative ions. Secondly, we have a process which agitates the solution: 'succussion'. This may take one of many forms. Hahnemann is reputed to have struck the vials of liquid on the family bible, and various forms of agitation have been developed since then. Indeed it would have been impossible for the American homeopath James Tyler Kent to have developed his work with the high potencies of 1M (1000c) and beyond were it not for the invention of a mechanical form of succussion. History contains many examples of such systems, including the shaking of a Korsakovian machine and the continuous 'fluxion' developed by Finke. However it is clear that all these processes have one thing in common: they induce vorticing in the solution. For instance, one of the processes used for the bulk manufacture of homeopathic medicines involves a container of several litres being gently rocked on its long axis. This is a rather more gentle process than that of hand-potentising, in which the operator strikes a glass vial against the surface of a material such as polystyrene. David Lilley reports that at one stage of his career he created a machine based on a small electric motor and a rubber diaphragm, which vibrated the vial possibly hundreds of times per second, producing remedies which he described as

'supersucceded'.⁸ To an engineer or a chemist it may seem bizarre that so many widely differing processes could be developed, all bearing claims of creating a similar product, yet close scrutiny reveals once again that the effect of all these processes is to create a remarkably uniform effect on the solution involved.

Various mechanisms have been proposed to explain why the solutions created in this way should be biologically active, but the question also has to be asked whether the solutions which result can be distinguished from pure water, or from each other. If so, then we have more evidence that the solutions are changed, and can indeed retain the alteration, and we are perhaps a little further on towards understanding how they exert their effect. Many scientists have examined this issue, for example Rey studied the thermo-luminescence of potentised solutions of lithium and sodium chloride. Not only was he able to distinguish between the two remedies, but also between different potencies of the same remedy.⁹

With relevance to our example of common salt, Assumpção investigated potentised solutions of sodium chloride with regard to electrical impedance and their high voltage plasma images.¹⁰ As might be expected from conventional physics, serial dilution initially increased impedance, but there was a fascinating reversal of this trend as soon as the potency reached the critical 12c potency. Similarly the high voltage plasma images show distinct qualitative differences at each of a number of potencies.

More recently, Steven Cartwright and his colleagues' work on solvatochromic dyes adds further weight to the evidence of the electromagnetic nature of potentised solutions.^{11,12}

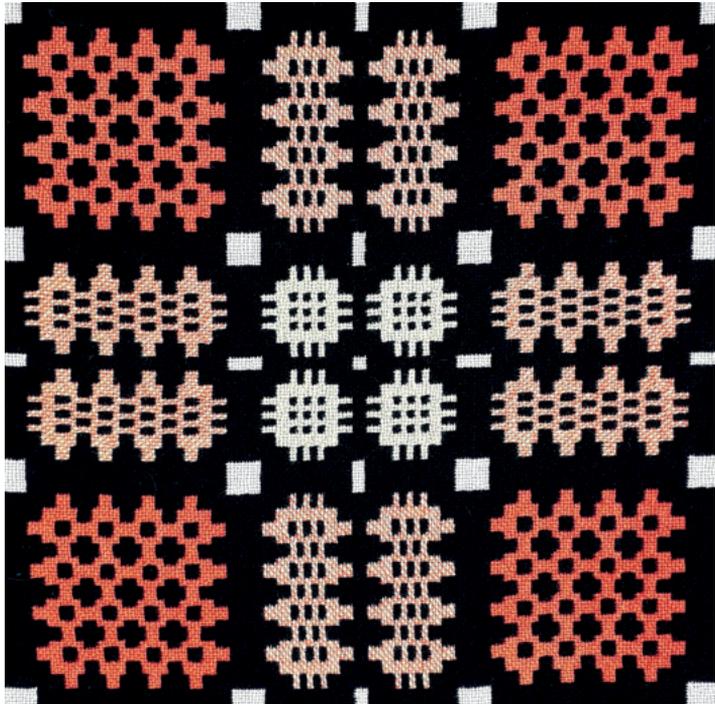
So what is the mechanism whereby this 'information' is developed and retained in the solvent by the process of serial dilution and succussion?

Structure of water

It is a surprisingly common belief that water is simply a homogenous liquid, held together by hydrogen bonds whose life is measured in nanoseconds; thus it is impossible for it to retain information in any stable form. This belief is increasingly being challenged, and some important evidence has come from the field of materials science. Roy *et al.*, working in this field, have concluded that a typical sample of water almost certainly consists of clusters of various sizes, up to at least several hundred units; the differing structural forms have been found to be stable for periods up to several minutes – far greater than the 1 microsecond life of the hydrogen bond.^{13,14} This they explain by the presence of the van der Waals bonds

part two

PATTERNS



RECOGNISING PATTERNS

Art is the imposing of pattern on an experience, and our aesthetic enjoyment is recognition of the pattern.

Alfred North Whitehead¹

The task of matching the patient with an appropriate homeopathic remedy presents the fundamental challenge for the homeopath, and the history of homeopathy is testament to many attempts at facilitating this procedure, while at the same time rendering it more accurate. The development of the repertory, and its refinement by Kent in particular, was a major step forward in this process, and its use remains a necessary skill for most homeopaths. The use of a numerical grading system, now readily available in computerised form, lends a scientific credence to the process of repertorisation, but Kent himself acknowledged that success can also depend on the application of a certain amount of art. Indeed veterinarians who rely heavily on the repertory are often highly imaginative in their selection of rubrics. This ability of veterinary homeopaths to think laterally stems partly from the fact that the repertory has been designed for use with human patients, and partly from the difficulties inherent in treating the non-verbal patient. However, the final remedy choice still depends on an understanding of the patient gained by the means we have discussed in the previous chapters.

In recent times, several gifted homeopaths have addressed this issue and as a result new methods of case analysis have emerged.

Rajan Sankaran

Perhaps the most successful of these has been the ‘Sensation’ method developed by Rajan Sankaran and his team in Mumbai.² Like all new areas of endeavour in homeopathy the system is in a process of continual development, as Sankaran continually attempts to refine it. Several of my

colleagues are exploring ways in which the system may be used for the benefit of animals.

While classifying remedy states into 'miasms', Sankaran's use of the term can be somewhat misleading, as it refers to what is more accurately defined as the 'pace' of the disease. While there is some correlation with the Miasmatic states I have described earlier, it is more difficult to apply the 'new' categorisations such as 'typhoid' or 'malaria' to that more orthodox view. Nevertheless there is no reason why these classifications should not be valid for animals. To make the best use of them, of course, one has to spend time studying the system, and there is a growing number of veterinarians who have done so, successfully incorporating this knowledge into their skill set. Furthermore there is no doubt that veterinary homeopaths can gain much by reading Sankaran's extensive work, as without doubt it brings a deeper understanding to the whole realm of homeopathy than ever before.

One such area involves the concept of 'kingdoms'. It has long been recognised that, for instance, a patient requiring a remedy sourced from a plant will exhibit different characteristics in their symptomatology from one requiring a remedy sourced from mineral or animal material. Sankaran's study of this issue has led to a far deeper understanding of this concept and in the next chapter we will look at how we can apply it to animal patients.

In the cases of plant and animal remedies, Sankaran further categorises them on the lines of taxonomy, hence the characteristics of a particular plant family are described, or of a class of animals such as the insects. It is worth noting that the characteristics described in these classifications are firmly based on provings and symptoms published in the repertory, but they also take into account the behaviour and life histories of the relative species. Similar examinations of groups of remedies and the identification of common themes have been performed previously by homeopaths: for example Ralph Twentymen's book *The Science and Art of Healing*³ contains several chapters on individual plant families, but Sankaran's comprehensive investigations have produced new and deeper insights. It is certainly possible to identify themes in veterinary patients which allow a similar categorisation, and the descriptions of remedy states contained in this section follow similar taxonomic groupings.

Jan Scholten

In the case of mineral remedies, Sankaran appears to have built on the ongoing work of the Dutch homeopath, Jan Scholten,⁴ who pioneered the

use of the periodic table of the elements to identify issues which are significant for any particular mineral remedy. The traditional periodic table has been adapted slightly by these workers to more accurately represent the features of homeopathic elements, but the underlying principle is that each column and each row of elements are associated with a progression of issues which are specific to that grouping. While Sankaran has adopted a numerical system, Scholten identifies each row as a 'series' progressing from the Hydrogen series (the top row, Sankaran's Row 1) down to Uranium (the bottom line, Sankaran's Row 7). He identifies a group of keywords with each series and I have selected one from each series to illustrate the progression: Hydrogen (Row 1): Existence; Carbon (Row 2): Individual; Silicium (Row 3): Relations; Ferrum (Row 4): Work; Argentum (Row 5): Creation; Aurum (Row 6): Power; Uranium (Row 7) Old age. To complicate matters a little, the Lanthanides have traditionally been depicted as a separate row, along with the Actinides, however Scholten has now inserted the 'Lanthanide series' (Independence) between the Argentum and Aurum series.

A similar progression develops along the rows (and across the columns) in 18 'stages' (Sankaran's 'columns'). Hence the first column represents 'beginning', column ten represents the summit of achievement, and thereafter there is a progressive decline towards destruction.

As an example of how this works, if we take Scholten's 'Gold series' (Row 6), the concept of power experienced by the patient develops from stage 1 (Caesium) through to a peak at stage 10 (Platinum), then progressively disintegrates through Mercury and Plumbum to come to rest at stage 18 (Radon).

Scholten has also used his discoveries in this field to predict the properties of remedies which have never been proved.

As a result of this work our present state of knowledge of the mineral remedies has advanced enormously in the last decade or so.

Application to veterinary patients

In terms of remedy states, then, we can gain much in their understanding by studying this new work, and I will refer to it again in the following chapters, although for a comprehensive coverage, and to understand these systems properly, I would strongly suggest reading the works of both those authors. Scholten has now extended his work to plant remedies.

How much we can rely on these techniques of human case analysis in the veterinary field is perhaps a little less certain, as so much depends on the analysis of the patient's emotional state, although with the sort of

understanding I believe we can gain of our animal patients, I believe it is certainly possible for us to find some use for them. Sankaran's most recent development involves identifying the 'sensation' in a patient.¹ This refers to a 'sense' which runs through the case at every level from Local to General to Mental, and integral to this concept is Sankaran's emphasis on the importance of the presenting symptoms in case analysis. Examples of 'sensation' might include a polarity of 'hot and cold' or even an action such as 'clench and unclench'. This level of understanding represents the case beyond the level of mental and emotional states as articulated by humans, to expressions of survival emotions shared with animals. In this context, a hand gesture is of fundamental significance to the case, something which veterinary homeopaths, with their training in observation of behaviour, can certainly relate to. At this level there is a clear relevance to the treatment of animals, and already study of this system by veterinarians has begun to bear fruit.

Sankaran and Scholten are not the only homeopaths to have developed novel systems of case analysis, but I have mentioned them in particular as they are the most prominent at the time of writing, and I have some knowledge of their work.

The 'new' methods, along with computerised repertories, should make it a lot easier for homeopaths to find an appropriate remedy for any particular patient, but whatever method is used, the practitioner eventually has to make a choice, and the decision still relies on the published materia medica. This becomes more extensive and more relevant as our understanding of the remedies develops. Of particular relevance in this context is an ongoing project of The International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH) to publish a *Materia Medica Veterinaria Homeopathica* (MMVH) in English. It is based on an original work created in French by the late Jacques Millemann, subsequently published in German. However the present work includes a more extensive description of what the translator Ed de Beuke-laer calls the 'dynamic' of the remedy, and in some cases draws on the work of Marc Brunson, a Belgian homeopath. It will be further enhanced by the addition of up-to-date case histories. As a result of all these workers, our knowledge of many hitherto poorly known remedies has increased and our understanding of the more commonly used remedies enhanced.

The 'Jizz'

As we gain experience, the appearance of a patient in each remedy state we encounter becomes more familiar. Firstly, this means we can be more

part three

THE WAY



FINDING SUPPORT: THE VALUE OF SUPERVISION

I am he
As you are he
As you are me
And we are all together

John Lennon¹

The need for support

In most countries, the veterinary profession is relatively small, hence veterinary homeopathy is very much a minority pursuit; furthermore, the law in UK and many other countries prohibits anyone except a qualified veterinarian from treating animals. While the homeopathic doctor can, if they so wish, share their experiences with 'Non Medically Qualified' homeopaths (NMQs), there is no equivalent for the veterinarian. The way in which homeopathy is used in animals or people correspond in many areas, but there is nevertheless a limit to the understanding which can exist between the two groups of practitioners. For these reasons, it can be difficult for the veterinary homeopath to find or create any kind of support network for themselves. There is a great deal of misunderstanding about homeopathy, and partly as a consequence of this there is much opposition to it, from both within and from outside the veterinary profession. The veterinary homeopath can therefore find themselves feeling isolated and unsupported and if this issue is not dealt with skilfully, it can have a significant effect on their emotional welfare. For this reason, I believe it is vitally important that, as soon as possible, they should seek an appropriate support structure; if this is not possible they may even consider establishing something themselves.

This issue is actually important for veterinarians generally; there is a disturbingly high level of suicide in the profession. This is only partly

explained by the availability to them of the necessary drugs, equipment and skills. In this relatively small profession I have personally known three colleagues who have taken their own lives. In recent years these issues have multiplied into a veritable epidemic of depression and emotional issues, particularly in new graduates, resulting in a loss to the profession of huge numbers, as they leave to pursue other careers.

Homeopathy's emphasis on the mental and emotional state of the patient has attracted many professionals from the field of psychotherapy. Consequently, many homeopaths have adopted an approach to supervision similar to that prevalent in the field of psychotherapeutic counselling, where it is considered to be an essential element of practice. In this model, the homeopath regularly spends time with a 'supervisor', with the express purpose of helping them to deal with issues which arise from their practice. Such sessions can take the form of one-to-one interviews, or group discussions and exercises, and the subjects raised can cover a wide range of issues.

What is supervision?

At this stage it may be helpful to examine the precise meaning of the term 'supervision' as it relates to homeopathy. While the word is commonly used in the context of any work or study, over the last thirty years or so, in psychotherapy and the helping and health professions generally, a more expansive definition has been developed. In etymological terms 'super' comes from the Latin word meaning 'over' or 'above', and 'vision' from 'visio' meaning 'I see'. Hence we have 'seeing from above'. Most of us understand supervision in the sense of 'being looked at from above'; in the workplace, the supervisor watches what you are doing, and makes sure you are performing your task efficiently and correctly; a student's supervisor offers guidance on the 'correct' way to study or to present work. The homeopathic supervisor, on the other hand, 'looks from above' to gain an understanding of the 'bigger picture'; frequently the purpose of a supervision exercise is to help the supervisee to gain a deeper understanding of the issue in question by 'looking from above' and seeing it in a wider perspective. Sheila Ryan, an experienced homeopathic supervisor, expands the definition further to describe supervision as 'a quality of looking', where one looks 'with acceptance and without fear or favour' at the critical incident, its context and relationships, the understanding being that if we can conduct such a 'compassionate inquiry' into our practice then we will be more able to make changes where needed, rather than simply defend our position.²

On a practical level, engaging with the supervisory process can open up to us the 'hidden' aspects of a homeopathic case, the parts which only our subconscious has acknowledged, but it can also provide us with valuable insights into our personal way of being and of how we deal with the world at large. Hence, in homeopaths generally, there is a clear recognition of the value of an ongoing supervisory relationship, and I believe this is just as relevant to those of us who deal with animals.

In order to look in more detail at the process itself, it is necessary to revisit some of the concepts we examined in the previous chapter on the consultation. Both transference and counter-transference occur in any personal encounter such as a supervision session, but as documented by Hawkins and Shohet, these interactions are supplemented by what is known as the 'parallel process', whereby the issues which surface in the 'here and now' of the session reflect those in the 'then and there' of the situation described by the supervisee.³ For instance, if the supervisor finds themselves feeling angry towards the supervisee this might be a reflection of the anger the supervisee had felt in the consultation under scrutiny.

The subjects which can be dealt with in supervision are virtually unlimited. Some of the issues which have been brought to me as a supervisor are listed below:

- Help with finding a remedy for a specific patient.
- Gaining a deeper understanding of a case.
- Dealing with the challenge of incurable cases.
- Investigating expectation and failure.
- Responding to opposition from a colleague.
- Dealing with an aggressive client.
- Integrating homeopathic philosophy with everyday life.
- Practising homeopathy within a commercial veterinary practice (in particular the conflict with vaccination policy and promotion of commercial pet foods).

It can be seen that the process may provide support at any one of several levels, so let's look at how we might apply the process to a difficult case brought for supervision.

How does it work?

At the most basic and practical level, supervision can offer help in selecting a remedy for a specific patient. Firstly we can discuss the case as presented by the practitioner (the 'supervisee'), including all those aspects of case taking which are familiar to the homeopathic veterinarian; these include