



HORSES AND HOMEOPATHY

A Pocket Guide

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EYES, EARS, MOUTH & HEAD

EYES

Injuries

Bangs & blows, blunt trauma

In general for injury to the eye
Where shock is evident

Arnica 200c, 3 times daily
Aconite 200c, 4 doses 30
minutes apart

Where bruising or contusion is
evident

Ledum pal 30c, 4 times daily

Where there is bony damage to the
orbit

Sympytmum 6c, 4 times daily

Haemorrhage

Bleeding into the eye as a result of injury.

In general

Arnica 30c & Hamamelis 30c,
4 times daily

Or if severe trauma

Sulphuric acid 200c 3 times
daily

Where bleeding persists if bright red

Phosphorus 30c, 4 times
daily

If dark blood which remains fluid

Lachesis 30c, 4 times daily

Where there is severe bleeding, lids
puffy

Sulphuric acid 30c, 4 times
daily

To aid resorption of the clot

Crotalus horridus 30c,
3 times daily

Corneal abrasion

Damage to the superficial layer of the cornea, causes pain, eye closed, later clouding of the cornea, discharge watery becoming mucky.

Initially

Ledum 30c & Sympytmum
30c, 3 times daily

Where cloudy with mucky discharge

Argentum nitricum 30c,
3 times daily

With extreme pain and watering

Conium 30c, three times daily

Slow healing, eye red, inflamed

Merc sol 30c 4 times daily

To heal in stubborn cases

Silica 6c, Calendula 6c &
Sympytmum 6c, twice daily

THE CARDIOVASCULAR & LYMPHATIC SYSTEMS

THE HEART

Murmurs & arrhythmias

Murmurs occur as a result of turbulence within the blood flow from damage/distorted heart valves. Arrhythmias are essentially a disturbance in heart rhythm. Both conditions may be minor and of no concern, but they can also be serious making riding dangerous.

For general heart support
With definite valve damage
Where there is an arrhythmia
Where the heart muscle is weak,
possibly filled legs

Crataegus 6c twice daily
Cactus 6c twice daily
Digitalis 6c 3 times daily
Strophanthus 6c 3 times daily

Endocarditis

Inflammation of the lining of the heart chambers. Rare. Occurs as result of bacterial infection.

Main remedy

Naja 30c every 15 minutes

Myocarditis

Inflammation of the heart muscle. Sometimes secondary to Strangles or navel ill.

As a general supportive remedy

Crataegus 6c 3 times daily

Pericarditis

Inflammation of the pericardium, the membrane enclosing the heart. A complication of Strangles or pneumonia.

Main remedy

Spigelia 30c every 15–20 minutes

Where the pericardial sac is distended with fluid add

Apis mel 200c hourly

BLOOD

Anaemia

Lack of red blood cells in the circulation. Three types:

THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Choke

Potential emergency, obstruction/impaction of oesophagus by food. Affected horses show extension of neck, dribbling of saliva from nostrils. Can have repeated attacks.

To calm the situation	Aconite 1M every 15 minutes
To help relieve the obstruction try	Cajuputum 30c every 15 minutes
If chronic try	Alumina 200c 3 times weekly
Alternatively	Gelsemium 200c 3 times weekly
Or try	Zinc sulph 30c twice daily

Gastric ulceration

Relatively common triggered by feeding/lifestyle/stress. Often no symptoms but may show loss of condition or weight/mild colic/anaemia/wind sucking. Can occur in foals.

Where there is chronic anxiety/stress	Dys co 200c once daily for 5–7 days
Alternatively	Uranium nitrate 30c 3 times daily
For nervous horses try	Argentum nitricum 30c 2 or 3 times daily
If prone to digestive upsets or anxious	Lycopodium 30c 2 or 3 times daily
Thoroughbreds often respond to	Arsenicum album 30c 2 or 3 times daily
If tense or irritable	Nux vomica 200c once daily for 10 days
If very thirsty	Phosphorus 200c once daily for 10 days
In general add	Hydrastis 30c 2 or 3 times daily
Alternatively try	Ornithogalum 30c twice daily

Colic

Common problem, potentially serious, abdominal pain varying in degrees, may be mild and resolve spontaneously or life threatening. Symptoms often include sweating/increased pulse rate/looking at flank/rolling/injected mucous membranes. Five types:

BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

Stereotypic behaviour, stable vices

Number of behavioural problems seen in horses of all ages/breeds/disciplines but most frequently seen older animals. Crib biting/wind sucking (aerophagia)/weaving most common. Also box walking/pacing/circling/head twisting/self-mutilation/rug tearing/teeth grinding/tongue flicking or curling. Problems have no obvious aim/function and are by nature, repetitive, showing no change in sequence/number/length of episodes, in comparison to learned behaviour traits which show variation/ have a definite aim. Triggers include changes in normal daily routine/owner/handler/rider/stable/yard/feeding/paddock, absence of companion animals/isolation/pining, travelling, increased work load/pressure, weaning, stress. Always important to rule out medical reasons (e.g. pain) for changes in behaviour. Management as important as treatment in resolving problems.

Causes

Upset by changes in routine	Arsenicum album, Lycopodium
Change of owner, handler, rider	Ignatia, Nat mur, Pulsatilla
Change of yard or stable	Bryonia, Ignatia, Capsicum, Phos ac, Merc sol, Carbo animalis
Loss of companion	Ignatia, Nat mur, Carcinosin, Staph, Graphites, Pulsatilla, Causticum, Aurum
Weaning (for mare)	Ignatia, Nat mur
Isolation	Aurum, Psorinum, Pulsatilla, Arg nit, Arsenicum, Lycopodium, Phosphorus, Lac caninum, Hyoscyamus
Travelling	Petroleum, Sepia, Cocculus, Gelsemium, Tabacum, Iris, Nux vomica
Increased work load	Nux vomica, Bryonia

Consequences

Crib biting	Stramonium, Anacardium, Hyoscyamus, Cuprum, Nux vomica, Staphysagria, Tarentula hisp, Veratrum alb, Cina, Nat mur, Arsenicum, Arum triphyllum, Medorrhinum, Sulphur
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