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Foreword

Veterinary homeopathy has a long history. Dr Samuel Hahnemann, who formulated the system in the early nineteenth century, is known to have treated animals, and his pupil Von Boenninghausen used homeopathy o the animals on his country estate. However, the first veterinary surgeon known to have used homeopathy was Wilhelm Lux. He is also attributed with having invented the use of nosodes and he wrote the first book on veterinary homeopathy, *Zooiasis*, in 1837.

In the United Kingdom the ‘father of British homeopathy’, James Moore wrote several books on the treatment of domestic species of animal, among them *The Horse Owner’s Veterinary Guide* (1863) and *Horses Ill and Well: Homoeopathic Treatment of Diseases and Injuries*, of which five editions were printed between 1873 and 1885. There then seems to have been a long gap in the publication of such works until George McLeod’s *The Homeopathic Treatment c Horses* was released in 1977.

George almost single-handedly kept veterinary homeopathy alive in the UK in the immediate post-war years and, as a co-founder of the British Association of Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons, played a significant part in its revival. However, the approach to homeopathy evident in his writings was based almost exclusively on pathological symptoms. Equine homeopathy has advance considerably since then and the need for a more relevant reference work has become ever more pressing. This book is therefore timely.

In this context, perhaps the most important development in equine homeopathy in recent years is the use of constitutional prescribing. Vital to an understanding of this concept is the assessment of the mental and emotional state of the patient, and this is where the major development of this book lies. In the past, horses were viewed as merely sophisticated machines with functions to perform in the service of their owners and, certainly in the medical treatment of the diseases, even with homeopathy, no consideration was made of their mental and emotional state. Modern homeopathy insists that we take these issues into account when prescribing on the deepest level and, while experience and training are necessary to prescribe accurately in this way, the rewards indeed justify the time and effort spent, both in the training of the veterinary homeopath and in the extended consultations necessary. It is at this constitutional level that homeopathy can provide the greatest benefit for its recipient. Careful reading of the relevant chapters of this book will provide a fascinating introduction to this field and hopefully will spur the reader to investigate it more fully.

Tim and I studied homeopathy together at the Faculty of Homeopathy, and we took the examinations for the Veterinary Membership (VetMFHom) together.
Subsequently we followed our separate paths. Tim successfully developed his own style of homeopathy, and concentrated on building up the Holistic Veterinary Medicine Centre in East Sussex; he has written regularly for several magazines, in both the small animal and equine fields. In 1995, I set up my own referral practice, based in and around the Peak District, offering alternative veterinary therapies. At the same time I became involved in teaching homeopathy, primarily to vets and doctors, with the Homeopathic Professionals Teaching Group. Teaching opportunities now regularly take me overseas.

In 2000, Tim and I joined forces when I took up a post in Sussex with him. We exchanged ideas and I'm sure we have learned a great deal from each other. Since that time we have both been engaged in writing books, sharing our individual experiences, but aimed at filling different niches. I have no doubt that this work will perfectly fill the gap which has existed for so long in the homeopathic literature in the English language; an increasing number of veterinary surgeons around the world now practise homeopathy and, for those, the need for a comprehensive equine reference book is at last satisfied.

In addition, while I strongly believe that the homeopathic treatment of horses should remain under the control of a qualified veterinary surgeon, there is much that the informed owner can do to treat minor ailments in their animals. In such cases an understanding of the disease process in operation is vital. Furthermore, for those few horse owners without easy access to a qualified professional, but with an open-minded and co-operative veterinary surgeon on hand, once again this book will be invaluable.

In summary, a comprehensive treatise on equine homeopathy such as this contains something for everyone. For the horse owner unfamiliar with this form of therapy, the first aid remedies can provide a valuable tool in self-help; for the more serious conditions, once a veterinary diagnosis has been made, homeopathy represents a valuable complement or alternative to conventional medicine and, for the aspiring veterinary homeopath, an introduction to the subject in more depth will enable a start to be made; hopefully this will stimulate an interest in further study.

It is a privilege to be requested by Tim to write this foreword, and I look forward to sharing our experiences for a long time yet.

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Homeopathy for Horses
Second Edition

512 pages, pb
publication 2006

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