

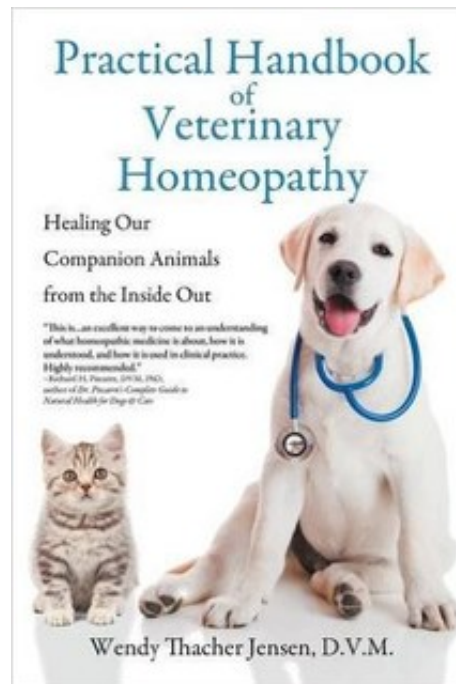
# Wendy F. Jensen

## Practical Handbook of Veterinary Homeopathy

Reading excerpt

[Practical Handbook of Veterinary Homeopathy](#)  
of [Wendy F. Jensen](#)

Publisher: Black Rose Writing



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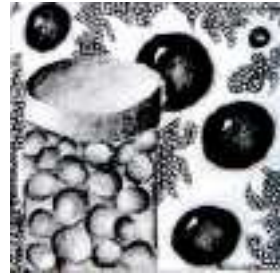
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## 7 - Posology



### Potency Selection—The Final Step

Having decided on the remedy, the next and final step facing your veterinarian is potency selection. While you will not have to make this decision, nor help your homeopath, this chapter has been included for the sake of completeness, and to answer questions for the curious. Often the loudest detractors against homeopathy focus on the dilute nature of its medicines, so having an understanding of this aspect is important.

What is potency? It refers to the strength of the remedy, or how much power has been developed through the processes of dilution and succussion, as discussed in the chapter *The Basics*. Just as the selection of remedy must match the symptoms of the patient, likewise the potency must match the strength of the vital force. In other words, the power needed to bend a blade of grass is different than the power needed to shake an ancient pine. Many homeopaths consider the selection of potency more difficult than that of the remedy itself!

What does the *Organon* have to say about the matter? A. 278: "Now the question arises what this ideal degree of smallness is, the degree that is certain and gentle in its remedial effect: how small should the dose of a given correctly chosen homoeopathic medicine be to cure a case of disease in the best way?"[1]

This surely gets your attention, doesn't it? Asking how *small* the dose should be instead of how *large* it needs to be to overcome a symptom nicely encapsulates the difference between allopathic and homeopathic medicine.

As you recall in the chapter The Basics, homeopathic medicines are prepared through dilution and succussion, thus freeing up the healing energy of the substances so that it is available to the patient. The patient, you might also remember, is sick on the energetic plane, so this is where the medicine must be directed. As the medicines are diluted more and more, they become stronger and stronger; their medicinal power, or potency, developed to a higher and higher degree.

*The more the remedy is diluted and succussed, the stronger it becomes.*

A. 278 continued: "To solve this problem, to determine for a given medicine used in homoeopathic practice what dose would be sufficient and at the same time small enough to effect the gentlest, quickest cure, is not a matter of theoretical conjecture, as one can easily understand. Theorizing and specious sophistry cannot enlighten us on this subject, nor can every possible eventuality be tabulated in advance. Only pure experiment, the meticulous observation of the sensitivity of each patient, and sound experience can determine this in each individual case." [2]

What is Hahnemann saying here? What is 'specious sophistry'? According to Webster, sophistry is "subtly deceptive reasoning or argumentation." [3] Hahnemann is reminding us that we can't just decide that a certain dose is correct for all cases of disease before us. We can't make a table with all the contingencies on one side and the correct potency on the other side, for convenient and sure-fire reference. No, the correct dose must be decided individually for each separate patient—for each unique presentation of disease. It's not a simple matter of how many grams of drug per pound of patient. The correct dose is determined by the strength of the vital force and the development of the disease which is unbalancing that particular vital force. Selecting the proper potency of the remedy is just as important as selecting the right remedy.

A. 278 continued: "It would be foolish to disregard what pure experience teaches us about the smallness of the dose necessary for homoeopathic cure and to favor the large doses of the inappropriate (allopathic) medicines of the old school, which do not homoeopathically

affect the sick part of the organism, but only attack the part that the disease has not taken hold of." [4]

This describes what happens when medicines are given that do not match the disease picture of the patient. By definition, a medicine which does not match the disease state must overlap onto the non-diseased part of the organism (the parts not yet expressing symptoms). The body reacts to these in a non-curative fashion, and modern medicine calls these reactions "side effects." But when a homeopathic remedy is given, and when its strength matches the strength of the illness, a deep healing response results.

A. 279: "Pure experience *absolutely* proves that even in a chronic or complicated disease, when there is no extensive damage to some vital organ, and though all other foreign medicinal influence has been withheld from the patient, *the dose of the highly potentized homoeopathic remedy beginning the treatment of a significant (chronic) disease can, as a rule, not be made so small*

*that it is not stronger than the natural disease,  
that it cannot at least partially overcome it,  
that it cannot at least partially extinguish it in the feelings of the vital principle,  
that it cannot start the process of cure."*[5]

So no matter how dilute the dose is, it always has an effect on the vital force. So what are the considerations your veterinarian makes in order to select the proper potency? There are many factors, but they all center upon matching the potency to the degree to which the disease has impinged upon the patient's vital force. Like a fist into a rubber ball, this impingement depends both upon the strength of the fist (disease) and the firmness of the rubber (vital force). It's not a linear relationship, but more a web of influences, interacting over time. Consider how firmly the fist was clenched, how fast the fist was traveling before hitting the ball, how much power the arm behind the fist contained, whether the ball was moving before it was struck, the pliability of the ball's material, whether the strike was dead on or a glancing blow....all these factors determine the effect of this impact. Your veterinarian must consider a complicated set of variables before deciding on the proper potency.

Here's another analogy to describe potency. Picture trying to push a stranded truck on a flat surface. No matter how hard you shove on the side door, that truck is not going to move. You have to line up your power with the orientation of the wheels. You first get in the cab and turn the steering wheel to align the front tires with the rear ones. Then you check to be sure the brakes are off, and the truck is in neutral. You might gather some friends to help. Finally, you all apply your most powerful shoves together, at the same time, directly behind the truck. It's moving! You successfully followed the principles of potency selection. You set up the proper conditions, then applied the power, right where it would have the most effect. Selecting potencies is a lot like this. By studying the patient, your veterinarian will be able to select just the right power to get that truck rolling. Once it starts to slow down, then another push is needed, and the patient is ready for the next dose. "Force, to be effective, must be supplied not only in the proper amount, but in the proper direction and at the proper time." [6]

Dr. Close gives us five considerations important to the selection of potency [7]:

- susceptibility of the patient
- seat of the disease
- nature and intensity of the disease
- stage and duration of the disease
- previous treatment of the disease

### Susceptibility

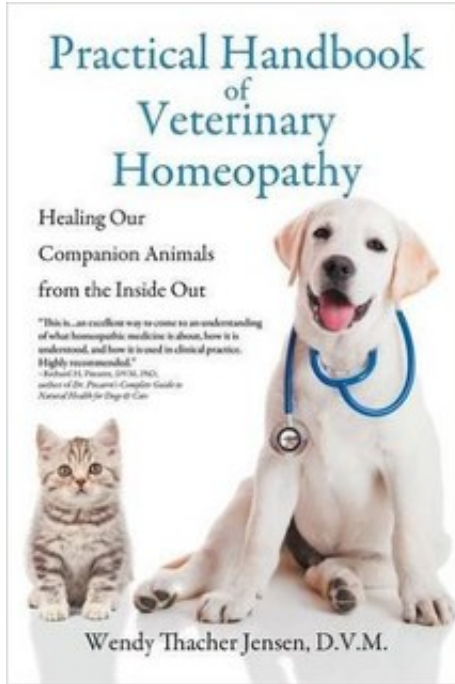
What is susceptibility? Let's start with Webster: "Lack of ability to resist some extraneous agent; sensitivity." [8] How susceptible is the truck to your push? How hard do you have to exert yourself to get it moving? Maybe the truck has rusted wheels, or is sitting in mud, or perhaps pointing slightly up

a hill. You would need to push harder. But what if it's already pointing down a slope? If the potency is too large and the patient very susceptible, then the case may spin out of control, aggravating excessively. You might run the truck into a river. If the potency is too small, the effect might be negligible, leading you and your veterinarian into the search for a new remedy, when actually all that is needed is a higher potency of the same remedy. In a nutshell, susceptibility refers to how much the correct remedy will affect the patient. Keep in mind, however, that this is not a static quality in the patient. Susceptibility can vary over time.

Susceptibility is highest in the following patients:

- young vigorous animals
- animals with greater vitality
- sensitive nervous patients
- animals without pathology
- patients who have NOT received a lot of (non-curative) medicines in the past (exception in the next paragraph)
- patients in healthy environments
  - good food, limited vaccinations—or none
  - appropriate and regular exercise
  - a stable loving predictable home
- patients with certain diseases
  - higher susceptibility in patients with seizures
  - lower susceptibility in heart valve disease
  - (this also relates to the seat of the disease, described below)

In general, the patients described above will do very well with higher potencies. Where there is a rule, however, there are always exceptions. For example, a patient who has received a lot of drugs, who might require low potencies as their susceptibility has been exhausted, may only respond to the



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Healing our Companion Animals from the  
Inside Out

214 pages, pb  
publication 2015



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