

# Working Animals

I guess we don't tend to think of our family pets as 'working' but for carnivorous pack animals, being a good and valued member of the pack can mean survival or not. It is especially their 'job' to follow and copy the pack leader(s), so as to help the pack survive harmoniously and to be retained in the pack themselves.

It is for this reason that I see so many pets with similar personality patterns, and often even similar physical illnesses, to a person in their 'pack'. Sometimes this can become a problem, causing an over-needy pet that follows us around everywhere, being a nuisance, tripping people up or developing separation anxiety. **Pulsatilla** is the remedy here.



Both over compliance and over dominance show an over the top attachment to alpha status, and can respond well to **Lycopodium**. Animals who are over-responsible, thinking it is their job to look after everyone all the time (often in a nice and caring way) need **Phosphorous**, so they don't wear themselves out and become sick. **Arsenicum** is the remedy for the worry wort who becomes anxious if everyone in their 'pack' isn't complying to a fixed routine.

And then of course there are remedies for injuries and accidents that can occur. **Arnica** is THE remedy for any accidents, falls, pain, shock, bruising, bleeding, sprains, fractures, surgery or wounds and should be in every animal first aid kit. **Arnica** is especially suited to racing or show animals because they have such a physically focused life and many of their ailments are related to injury, overstrain or imbalance of the musculoskeletal system. In these cases you would also consider **Rhus tox**, **Ruta grav** and **Bryonia**. **Hypericum** can also assist in the healing of physical injury, especially where damage to the nerves is involved.

Mildly infected wounds generally respond well to **Hepar Sulph**, particularly where the animal is quite sensitive. The quieter animal may be better suited to **Pulsatilla**. Infected wounds that are very slimy, green and bleeding (and where antibiotics have not helped or cannot be used) require **Mercurius**.

And then of course there is the question of performance anxiety in working animals but we'll leave that to another newsheet.

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