

Rethinking veterinary practice

❑ Introduction to the practice of the veterinary practitioner

Volume 1

Imprint

Rethinking veterinary practice
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LEARNING UNIT 1

From the study unit:

Introduction to the practice of the veterinary practitioner

Read through the entire learning unit once. Then make a note on this page of how you would like to benefit from this learning unit. Then work through the learning unit thoroughly and mark important points. The margins offer you the opportunity to note down practical examples and your own ideas.

1. LEARNING UNIT

TASKS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER

In the following chapters, the diagnostic and therapeutic methods used in veterinary practice will be explained in more detail.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In animal healing practice, as in human pathology, we speak of interference fields. It has long been recognised that there are so-called "foci", which can lead to illnesses and disorders of the organism after a certain period of time. In human dentistry, for example, it has been known for many years that inflamed root tips or dead nerves can lead to centres of inflammation in the body that at first glance are not associated with the teeth.

1.1 / 1 TREATMENT METHODS AND THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

The most common diseases of pets and horses are discussed as well as possible treatment methods of alternative veterinary medicine. It mainly deals with methods such as homeopathy, Bach flowers, acupuncture, aromatherapy, massages, compresses and herbal preparations. The applications are described in such a practice-orientated way that they can be easily implemented by the veterinary practitioner.

In addition to the therapeutic procedures and clinical pictures, however, possible prophylactic measures are also described which can be applied to the most common pets, such as dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, rats, mice, guinea pigs and horses.

Of course, the therapeutic approaches described also apply to other animal species. The animals listed above are treated with comparable approaches in conventional and alternative veterinary medicine.

However, this does not apply to birds, reptiles or fish. To date, there is little experience of the effects of alternative healing methods in these areas. In the case of animals such as birds, reptiles and fish, no comparisons can be made with the alternative methods used in human medicine.

The primary task of the veterinary practitioner is to recognise the animal's illnesses and select the appropriate measures to cure or alleviate the symptoms.

In individual cases, prophylactic measures are also required from the veterinary practitioner.

Only a few of the alternative healing methods and options are considered "clinically tested" according to legal criteria. Their effectiveness is usually based on decades of practical experience. In this respect, there are also no comparisons of the various success rates of alternative veterinary medicine with classical veterinary medicine.

The fact is, however, that no or only very minor side effects are to be expected with alternative therapy methods. In this respect, alternative veterinary medicine is also fully justified in terms of animal welfare.

This study programme gives you the opportunity to get to know a variety of alternative treatment methods that have been tried and tested in practice and can be easily adopted.

However, a prerequisite for working as a veterinary practitioner should always be a feeling for animals and a love of animals. Only those who are able to empathise with an animal and treat it with love will experience long-term joy and success in this profession.

In one of the later learning units, you will learn some of the legal background to working as a veterinary practitioner and something about practising such an activity.

1.1 / 2 FORMULATIONS

In order to become familiar with the formulations used in the study programme, you will find below some formulations that appear repeatedly and have the following meaning:

- ➞ **Direct effect**
Procedures that are presented as having a direct effect have
According to the current state of research, there is a high probability of positively influencing the symptoms or the causes of the symptoms.

Side note:

➤ Supporting effect

In the case of procedures with a supporting effect, no direct evidence of any effect on the symptoms or the clinical picture. However, practical experience has led to the assumption that a positive effect on the clinical picture could be observed.

➤ Not fit for purpose

If a procedure is described as "not appropriate", this means that there is no evidence of a positive effect. However, there are reasons that should justify the risk of worsening the symptoms or the cause. Therefore, such a therapy method should not be used in the cases described.

Side note:

1.2 TREATMENT

In principle, veterinarians and animal health practitioners are not in competition with each other. While most vets strictly follow the teachings of conventional medicine, veterinary practitioners and animal homeopaths only use natural healing methods.

However, this complementary support for animal health is perceived differently by most vets. As they have learnt nothing about the background and modes of action of alternative healing methods as part of their training, they are also rejected.

On the other hand, a large number of our students also have very positive opinions. Some of them work closely with veterinarians they know and complement the two available methods for the benefit of the animal.

Most illnesses can be treated or at least positively supported by a veterinary practitioner. However, the most serious illnesses or illnesses that are difficult to diagnose can usually only be treated by vets due to the examination methods available.

These diseases include not only all types of cancer, but also bacterial infections. Surgical procedures can and should only be carried out by a trained vet. The same applies when it comes to diagnostic methods such as X-rays.

But even in the case of the most serious illnesses, such as cancer, the veterinary practitioner can alleviate the animal's suffering with natural therapy methods.

Each treatment must be carefully selected and tailored to the animal. This means that which therapy method is used by the veterinary practitioner is decided not only on the basis of the available knowledge and possibilities, but also on the basis of the least possible stress for the animal.

For this reason, the veterinary practitioner should always compare and weigh up different therapeutic methods in order to tailor them to the individual animal and its symptoms.

However, choosing the least possible stress also means recognising that an alternative or natural therapy method should not be used in every case. If the use of conventional painkillers is indicated in an individual case, these should also be used if the animal can be spared pain and suffering as a result.

Of course, the tolerability of the product and any side effects must be carefully weighed against each other. Alternative methods should not be used at any price. The veterinary practitioner should also not be afraid to consult a vet immediately in cases of serious illness or persistent failure of their own treatment. Although this will only be necessary in a few cases, it should be done for legal and animal welfare reasons. The delimitation of such situations will be discussed in more detail in one of the following learning units.

Some veterinary practitioners believe that it is their job to carry out vaccinations or injections with chemical agents. If the legal assessment of such treatment is neglected, such a method can no longer be categorised as "alternative" or "alternative medicine".

"natural" veterinary medicine. The task of the veterinary practitioner or animal homeopath is precisely to make use of veterinary medical treatment and diagnostic methods.

A special qualification is required for veterinary practitioners who, according to "holistic principles". This means that these naturopaths see the animal as a unity of body and mind and base their treatments on this. So in one case or another it can also be a case of

Side note:

It may be necessary for the veterinary practitioner to look for the psychological causes of an illness. Many homeopathic remedies already take this "holistic" view into account.

When practising "holistic" veterinary medicine, however, it is necessary for the veterinary practitioner to familiarise themselves in detail with the typical behaviour of a particular animal species. Under certain circumstances, it may also be useful to undergo further training in the fields of animal psychology or animal therapy in order to strive for a "holistic" approach to treatment.

Working as a veterinary practitioner is rightly one of the most fulfilling and satisfying modern professions. However, those who choose this profession should be aware of their responsibility, as they assume responsibility for living beings, even if the animal is still legally categorised as a "thing".

Side note:

OWN SUMMARY

TASKS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER

What will change when you put these findings into practice?

[illegible]

What questions are still open?

[illegible]

Which of these insights can you put into practice immediately? When? How? How often?

Which key messages from the previous learning unit seem particularly important to you?

CONTROL

1. What are the three types of effect?
2. What is meant by a supportive effect?
3. Which diseases should be treated by a vet?
4. What does the choice of treatment procedure depend on?

CONTROL

TASKS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER

5. What needs to be weighed up for each treatment?

6. Are veterinary practitioners allowed to use chemicals?



HINT

The answers to the control questions can be found from page 220 onwards

LEARNING UNIT²

From the study unit:

Introduction to the practice of the veterinary practitioner

Read through the entire learning unit once. Then make a note on this page of how you would like to benefit from this learning unit. Then work through the learning unit thoroughly and mark important points. The margins offer you the opportunity to note down practical examples and your own ideas.

2. LEARNING UNIT

Side note:

SETTING UP A VETERINARY PRACTICE PART I

Running a veterinary practice requires basic knowledge of the organisation and administration of a practice. In this learning unit, you will receive suggestions that you can easily implement and that will make your work much easier.

The veterinary practice exists primarily to offer treatments for sick and disturbed animals. However, additional services can also be offered, such as

- Sale of over-the-counter medicines
- Sale of pet food
- Sale of animal care products
- Placement of pet sitters

2.1 OFFICIAL AUTHORISATION

If you sell food or other products in addition to your practice services, you may need to apply for a trade licence from your local authority. If you do not sell any products, this is generally not necessary. We recommend that you enquire with your local authority about the current rates and conditions.

The trade tax liability must also be checked accordingly.

In any case, registration with the relevant tax authorities is required. You can obtain the relevant forms from any local tax office.

2.2 SETTING UP THE PRACTICE

A practice is not absolutely necessary. Many veterinary practitioners practise their profession in such a way that they visit their patients in their home environment. This has the advantage that it is easier to observe the animal in its home environment. The animal is stress-free and relaxed.