

Emergency aid: emergency homeopathic treatment in a cat victim of a runaway

Abstract

The most common cause of shock in cats is trauma, due to fights with other animals and being run over. Regardless of the cause, shock can be fatal. *Arnica montana* is well used on tissues, skin and holes, always of traumatic origin. It reabsorbs internal bleeding, in addition to being a great option for controlling pain in these origins. This work aims to describe the use of homeopathy as a veterinary emergency tool, proving its effectiveness in supporting a cat victim of trauma due to being run over. A heavy seven-year-old mixed-breed cat received homeopathic support shortly after the trauma. *Arnica montana* 30 cH was administered in the plus method for two hours. Ultradilution kept the cat with a good breathing pattern and with all stimuli preserved, after six hours the patient presented cardiorespiratory arrest, leading to death. At necropsy, there was the presence of a discrete hematoma in the right lateral abdominal muscles and the presence of intestinal loops in the right internal femoral bone, characterizing a femoral hernia. The choice was unique and its use corroborates the well-being measures and responsibility of the Veterinarian in providing the first care. This study allowed a greater elucidation of the applicability of homeopathic therapy in the veterinary emergency room.

Keywords: *Arnica montana*, femoral hernia, running over, shock, trauma

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Introduction

Traumatized cats are often seen in veterinary centers, especially those that are not neutered and have access to the outdoors, these are the most affected. In a hit-and-run, feline trauma, determining the abnormalities underlying the pathophysiology and response to shock is variant due to the differences between cats that survived after treatment and cats that did not survive despite treatment.¹ Hypothermia, hypovolemia, and pale mucous membranes were associated with a higher risk of mortality. Our findings highlight the importance of prompt and effective care for these conditions.² Decisions to be made in the ER challenge clinicians on a daily basis.³ Emphasizing the importance of the ‘time factor’ in the treatment of polytrauma patients. The ‘golden hour’ is the period of time when damage can be minimized and basic and advanced life support can be provided, which will directly influence the prognosis.⁴

Homeopathy is a medicine created by the German physician Samuel Hahnemann in the eighteenth century with the use of diluted and dynamized medicines for a better response of the body. Recognized as an animal homeopathic science, it works on the well-being, treatment and balance of nature, in order to treat the entire living being and prioritize health, totally within the One Health concept.⁵

Seeking to offer support to the traumatized animal of a family without financial support, the objective was to describe the use of *Arnica montana* immediately after the run over of a senile cat. *Arnica* is certainly the homeopathic medicine most used by homeopaths and today it is being used by allopaths as well. Useful in all cases where the patient is afraid of being touched by the pain it may produce. It is the medicine of physical and mental traumas, of short but immediate action.⁶ It has an excellent analgesic effect.⁷

Case report

A seven-year-old mixed-breed cat, weighing 4kgs, received homeopathic support shortly after the trauma. The animal was hit by a car and arrived home staggering, with difficulty breathing:

open mouth/increased respiratory amplitude and mild drooling. Physical examination revealed tachycardia, tachypnea, pale mucous membranes, hypothermic, non-reactive lymph nodes, flaccid abdominal palpation, presence of structures in the right internal femoris, and subtle bleeding from the vulva. *Arnica montana* 30 cH was administered as a plus method for two hours. Ultradilution kept the cat with a good breathing pattern and rectal temperature at 37.5°C. Comfortable, attentive to the environment and with all stimuli preserved, after six hours the patient got up and walked with some intolerance (rapid tiredness). The patient presented vomiting in a moderate amount of food, followed by cardiorespiratory arrest, leading to death. At necropsy, there was a discrete hematoma in the right lateral abdominal muscles and the presence of intestinal loops in the right internal femoral, characterizing femoral hernia.

Discussion

Arnica montana has been used effectively in veterinary medicine, mainly in cases of trauma⁸ and post-operative recovery,^{9,10} as well as joint pain.¹¹

Certain characteristics may be unique, including absence of signs of pain on abdominal palpation, relative bradycardia, and apparent absence of open fracture and/or bleeding. Femoral hernia in felines is uncommon, on palpation it is possible to find a defect in the muscles of the pelvic limb and if the animal survives the hematoma becomes evident, the risks of death are imminent.

Conclusion

It is concluded that the use of *Arnica montana* in the described report offered immediate and effective support, keeping the animal with a good breathing pattern and absence of pain.

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Conflict of Interest

Author declares there is no conflict of interest in publishing the article.

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