



dogs **naturally**

January 2016

**HOLISTIC
VETS WHO
VACCINATE**

**PARVO
PROTOCOL**

**SWITCHING TO
HOMEOPATHY**

**A GIANT
Appetite**

**THE BAD DOG
RETRIEVE**

**When Surgery is
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Why I Turned To HOMEOPATHY



Charisa Antigua is the CEO and cofounder of CocoTherapy, an organic coconut oil brand of treats and supplements. Charisa is owned by a Yorkie, Camille, a 20 lb coconut-addicted Ragdoll cat, Montecore, and a Scottish Fold kitty, Sebastian. Charisa continues to work closely with animal homeopath Julie Anne Lee, DCH, RCSHom. You can visit Charisa at cocotherapy.com and oscarnewman.com



Homeopathy happened not because I had a choice, but because it became my only choice. My Yorkie Violet was diagnosed with the tick-borne disease anaplasmosis in October 2014.

Her primary vet started her on the typical treatment for tick-borne diseases, a one month round of doxycycline. Violet, with a compromised immune system, proved to be a special case. After treatment, she still tested positive for the organism *Anaplasma platys*. Antibiotics were continued for another month, and in December 2014, Violet tested negative. Relieved, I thought her fight with this disease was over.

VIOLET RELAPSES

In January, Violet became shaky, weak and stiff. Blood work revealed that her white blood cell (WBC) was a whopping 56.75+ compared to the normal range of 6.0 to 17.0. Although a test for the *Anaplasma* organism was negative, something was causing serious clinical symptoms, causing her WBC to shoot up.

Her primary vet put her on the antibiotic Clavamox, but we saw no improvement. In two days, she appeared to go blind, was pacing, unsteady and bumping into walls. Desperate, we put her back on doxycycline hoping it would bring the inflammation down,

With dedication, commitment and close observation, this precise, systematic form of medicine delivered a remarkable recovery.



Violet

and Violet appeared to improve after a few days. However, while still on the antibiotic, Violet deteriorated, lost her appetite, was lethargic and weak. A retest of her blood work revealed that her WBC was 36.03+.

Something was triggering Violet's immune system to overreact and increase her WBC count.

Perplexed, we tried another antibiotic, rifampin, for ten days, to see if it would reduce the inflammation. Violet's WBC dropped within the normal range of 15.01 and I hoped that this was finally the end of her battle with this mysterious inflammation.

OUR INTRODUCTION TO HOMEOPATHY

A week later, Violet began to have small focal seizures. They became progressively worse over the next two days. Her WBC had increased to 25.34+. I was at my wits' end. Desperate, I contacted a dear friend, Julia Henriques, for help.

With Julia's extensive connections in the veterinary community through Dogs Naturally Magazine, I asked if she knew of a veterinarian who could help shed light on Violet's case. Then Julia suggested something I never expected: would I consider trying classical homeopathy for Violet?

At this point, I wasn't even sure I knew what "classical homeopathy" meant. I looked at Violet who was having seizures, had no appetite, was weak and lethargic, and at an emergency vet hospital that was suggesting seizure medication and preparing a prescription of Valium enema ... and I knew I had to try something else.

Classical homeopathy, Julia explained, is a natural system of healing that works with your body to relieve symptoms, restore balance and cure illnesses based on the concept that "like cures like." Natural homeopathic remedies are chosen based on the patient's symptoms. Instead of reacting to a disease and suppressing symptoms (as with conventional medicine), homeopathy works with the body to support its own healing ability.

Frustrated and desperate with Violet's recurring illness, I was willing to try it. I felt conventional medicine would eventually hurt Violet's 3.7 pound body, and homeopathy was her only hope. This was not without trepidation. What if it didn't work or if Violet became worse? I wondered if she would benefit from what I thought was a slow-acting modality, when she needed help fast.

So with faith, my incredible and amazing journey with homeopathy began. Julia put me in touch with a classically trained animal homeopath, Julie Anne Lee. Extremely knowledgeable and experienced, Julie Anne has worked homeopathically with countless sick animals for over a decade. I was carrying little Violet out of the emergency vet when I had my first phone call with Julie Anne. Immediately, I knew Violet was in the best hands.

VIOLET'S TREATMENT

Julie Anne worked closely with Violet's primary vet, contacting her for Violet's history, records and current state. She prescribed several homeopathic remedies to detoxify Violet from all the antibiotics and reduce inflammation and trauma to her little body. She explained how to prepare the remedies with spring water and

administer them. Julie Anne was exceptionally accessible; she wanted to be updated after every remedy Violet took and monitor her condition throughout the day. Julie Anne became our lifeline. I soon learned that Violet's response must be observed closely to determine whether the remedies were right, and if not,

I've learned to respect the body and its remarkable ability to heal itself. I've learned not to panic and administer drugs to suppress symptoms, because symptoms are the body's way of expressing illness and bringing itself back into balance.

we would try another remedy. Julie Anne didn't tell me to just give Violet *Aconitum napellus* (for example) three times a day and call her in the morning. She wanted to know how Violet was 15 minutes after taking a remedy, then an hour later, and throughout the entire day.

After the very first night of treatment, I began noticing marked improvement. Violet showed interest in treats and her energy increased. After 24 hours, Violet jumped out of bed in the morning and began barking for her dinner. After a week of homeopathic remedies, we did blood work. Her WBC had dropped from 25.34 to well within the low range of 8.06!

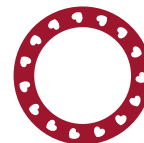
All accomplished without antibiotics! More remarkably, Violet's energy was better than it had been in the three months since she first got sick. She began to chase her kitty brothers again, play with her sister Camille, and bother staff at the office begging for treats.

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A FRIGHTENING SETBACK

Violet has always had a compromised immune system, suffering from severe allergies and an extreme response to stress. In June, after some stressful visits for physical therapy for her knees, she began to show signs of illness again: shivering, loss of appetite and a temperature increase to 105°F. She suffered grand mal seizures over the course of two days, and in that time her WBC increased from 36.2 to 42.36.

In a desperate attempt to control the worsening inflammation, her primary vet administered a steroid shot and a strong sulfa antibiotic capable of penetrating the blood-brain barrier.

Within the next four days, her WBC continued to rise to 56.46. I chose to stop the antibiotics (which were not helping anyway) and address this on a purely homeopathic level.

After several rounds of homeopathic remedies from Julie Anne, Violet began to improve. Her WBC dropped to 34.97, then in two weeks to a beautiful, normal 12.49. Homeopathy proved its remarkable power again.

AN EXTRAORDINARY RECOVERY

For several months, Violet did remarkably well. She returned to her active, spoiled self, running around and begging for treats. I provided her with a stable, steady routine to minimize unnecessary stress.

Julie Anne began to treat Violet constitutionally at a deeper level to address her ultra-sensitive immune system, and help her handle stress better without having a major inflammation flare-up.

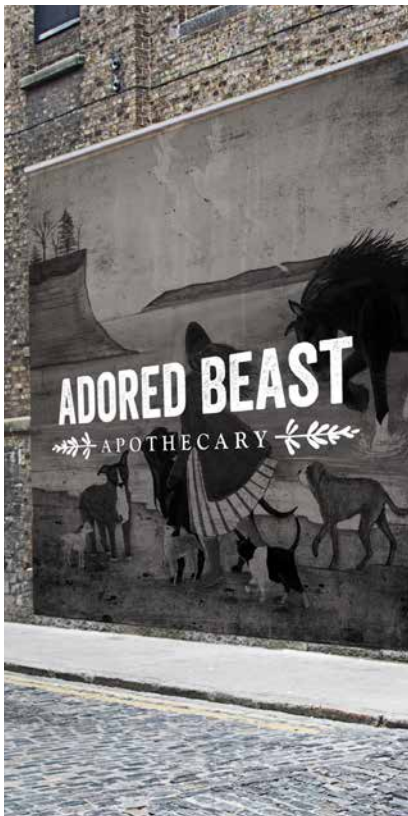
PARTNERING WITH OUR PRIMARY VET

We were also lucky that Violet's primary vet was willing to work closely with Julie Anne. Homeopathic medicine is frequently misunderstood, overlooked or even used incorrectly by many veterinarians, but our vet was open to learning from Julie Anne.

Homeopathy isn't just some hit or miss, alternative form of treatment you do haphazardly when you want to do more than conventional medicine. It's a precise, systematic form of medicine that takes dedication and commitment. It's about observing your pet closely, being extremely attuned to her physical and emotional state and working patiently with her. I found it helpful (and necessary) to take meticulous notes so that I could track, remember, refer and learn what worked for my dog.

In working with Julie Anne, I've learned to respect the body and its remarkable ability to heal itself. I've learned not to panic and administer drugs to suppress symptoms, because symptoms are the body's way of expressing illness and bringing itself back into balance. I truly believe that Julie Anne was a godsend for Violet. God created our bodies to react in specific ways to heal and protect when sick. Homeopathy respects the body's functionality and works with it to cure it.

Afterword: Very sadly, Violet passed away in October 2015. Her veterinarians believe her death was due to a brain tumor, which was probably the cause of her seizures and brain swelling. Interestingly, earlier in the year Violet had been given the homeopathic remedy *Carsinosin*, a remedy often used to treat cancer symptoms; she'd responded very well to it and it likely prolonged her quality of life. 🍀



RETURNING THE GIFT THEY GIVE TO US.

Adored Beast Apothecary is the culmination of decades of experience in the trenches of holistic healthcare by founder Julie Anne Lee, DCH. Opening the first licensed holistic veterinary clinic in Canada, Julie Anne has used her experience as an animal care provider and compassionate advocate to develop simple and easy-to-follow products that put the power back in your hands.

Julie Anne has trailblazed the advancement of holistic pet care and brings her wealth of experience to all aspects of the Adored Beast Apothecary. As a practitioner, teacher and consultant, she has expanded the world of animal wellness, both reclaiming, and scientifically evolving, the time-honoured, common-sense practice of nature-based animal healthcare.

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