

Alternative healthcare of birds

Ross A Perry¹

Introduction

Be careful, teachers and students!

I am reminded that a teacher affects eternity! One can never tell how far the influence of one's teachings go. And then again, I am reminded:

"There was an old owl who lived in an oak.

The more he heard, the less he spoke.

The less he spoke, the more he heard.

How can we be like that wise old bird?"

"Alternative."

At this point in time the word "alternative" denotes "non-traditional western scientific allopathic medicine and surgery" and encompasses an increasingly diverse array of approaches and attempts to encourage and promote healing and a return to health and function.

Interested

I put on record that I was asked by a representative of our AAVAC committee to speak on this subject at this conference. I openly acknowledge my continuing interests in and attempts to learn more about promoting health and healing by whatever means, be it with allopathic methods and/or alternative methods, and the application and adaptation of such methods to individuals of that extensive array of species we call "birds".

Not an authority

Despite this, I in no way consider myself to be an "authority" on "alternative medicine". I have not undertaken any formal training by others, although I have attended a few introductory lectures and talks on subjects such as Tellington Touch, homeopathy, Reiki and herbal medicine.

In the lines that follow I will share some aspects of personal philosophies with those so inclined to read them. I also point out how these have developed and changed over the years. Without being aware of these, it might be much harder to understand how someone (such as myself) with "formal scientific training and accreditation" could become interested in "alternative healing methods". Perhaps you may have no desire to "understand", you may accept or dismiss "that which is" and move on to the "nitty gritty" ... dose rates, formulae etc. that can be used in clinical practice. You will find these near the end of the paper.

Quackery? Reserve judgement?

I understand and appreciate that some people dismiss anything and everything that cannot be proved or investigated satisfactorily by scientific methodology as "false", as "quackery" and to concurrently imagine themselves to be far superior academically to those "fools and charlatans" they believe "practice quackery."

I recognise and acknowledge those views because I recognise that I have held them, and perhaps still hold some of them in some contexts. Yet, I am constantly reminded, "to judge not, lest ye be judged". I sense that this applies not

¹ Homebush Animal Hospital, Corner Parramatta Road and Railway Lane, Homebush, N.S.W. Australia 2140

only to judging others but also applies to judging oneself. I therefore ask that consideration be given to reserving judgement whatever way, re what I have to say, until at least you have given yourself opportunity to study and gain personal experience with aspects of “alternative healing”.

You don’t have to be an aeronautical engineer to recognise that most birds can fly. In human terms you don’t have to be very bright at all to recognise this but your attempts to really explain how they do so might be dismissed as being “ignorant” by the aeronautical engineer.

Understanding and explanations incomplete

Many birds recover from diseases, and we often like to attribute such healings to our interventions, to our prescribing such and such a drug or treatment. At some point of time in our not so distant future, we might realise that many of our currently expoused explanations of such healings are offered in ignorance. We are likely to look back and realise that we had not given consideration to concepts we had yet to grasp and to adopt as being closer to some absolute “truth”.

Changing beliefs and expanding awareness

I also recognise that my own beliefs, awareness, interests, perspectives and attitudes appear to have all changed considerably over 50 short years. I therefore reason that what I hold to be “true” now is likely to be seen in a somewhat different “light” in my future, and that I suspect this principle applies to the great majority of us. I am reminded of some of the implications can be attached to the timeless states of reality and consciousness that we enter whenever we “go to sleep” or “meditate”. It has become evident to me that we live with and are often bound by frameworks of beliefs until they are challenged, demolished and renovated with something that “sits in our heart” as being closer to the truth. However, these renovated beliefs are not likely to be the absolute truth. Truth is that which does not change, or is that statement representative of just another belief? We all must recognise that our treatments and explanations for their indications and benefits are continuing to change. We feel we are “advancing our knowledge”, but are we improving on the “truth” or continuing the process of discovering Truth?

Personal philosophies and truisms

My learning curve has been largely derived by cautious “trial and error”, while attempting to live more and more in accordance with philosophies such as “first do no harm”, “hurt never, help ever”, “love all, serve all”, “every obstacle is an opportunity in disguise”, “no disease is incurable ... we simply need to bring the future to the present”, “all the world is a stage and we are but bit players in it”, “there is more in heaven and earth than we ever dreamed of”, Perhaps last but not least, we should “beware of half-truths ... you may have the wrong half”. One day we might discover that this daytime reality in which we are focused as we read this is much more a dream than some of the realities we enter in our “dreams”!

Childhood and youth experiences

These beliefs have been underpinned by an all-encompassing love of Nature that has persisted from childhood. I have also had numerous “e.s.p.” experiences in my youth that cannot be explained by current “framework of scientific beliefs”.

Recognising changing frameworks of beliefs

I have been involved in my personal search for purpose and meaning of life, a personal search for God and faith, a questioning of some religious dogma, and a move towards spiritualism. I have arrived at a realisation that much of what we were taught at school and university was not in fact, fact, but instead a flawed framework of beliefs in need of urgent yet careful renovation.

Provocative memories.

I remember being taught in 4th year that the common feather loss syndrome in cockatoos was due to too much sunflower seed in the diet. I remember rapidly reaching the conclusion in practice that this was not correct. This prompted my search for answers to many questions about what is now known as Psittacine Beak and Feather

Disease.

Advice or opinions that what many call megabacteria are yeast pseudohyphae prompts me to continue to seek answers to what they really are.... I certainly do not believe that they are yeast pseudohyphae.

Limitations of allopathic medicine and surgery

Our current inability to cure many diseases with allopathic medicines and our apparent inability to cure many others without resorting to pain associated surgery prompts me to seek answers and cures by other means. Hence my growing interest in "alternative therapies". This is also fuelled by a suspicion and in some cases an awareness that some if not many of our allopathic medicines can have adverse or iatrogenic effects that can persist for years.

A double-edged sword

I suspect that veterinary surgeons becoming interested in "alternative healing methods" will often find this interest and its applications to be like a double-edged sword, both with clients and with colleagues. "Alternative medicine" is not for everyone, nor is it a panacea for all ills at this point in time. If alternative medicine is to be used at all by registered veterinary surgeons, it behoves us to recognise and acknowledge that most of our clients are likely to have arrived at our doorstep because of their faith in allopathic veterinary science. This will apply unless and until we make it widely known that we are also interested in and 'practise' "alternative healing methods".

Scepticism, respect and sensitivity

We need to recognise that many clients and colleagues expecting a strictly scientific approach to healing will be sceptical towards, and perhaps openly or latently dismissive of, if not resentful of, any attempt to use "alternative methods" on their beloved pets. Religious beliefs of pet "owners" will also be found to be an important consideration. These demand respect and diplomacy when contemplating and selecting or not selecting some "alternative methods" for trying to heal a person's pet.

Health and stamina

Health is a dynamic state, like a finely fluctuating balance between factors that we traditionally (though perhaps from a myoptic viewpoint incorrectly) see as deleterious and those that promote health. Both are necessary and play important roles in the web of life. Our concept of optimal health should incorporate "STAMINA" as well as freedom from disease.

Immunosuppression

We can think of immunosuppression as sub-optimal disease resistance. Many factors that contribute to immunosuppression will have an additive or compounding effect when there is more than one such factor operative.

Factors likely to contribute to immunosuppression.

- Viral infections: Avian Papovavirus, Avian influenza, Psittacine and other avian Circoviruses, Infectious Bursal disease virus and many others;
- Chlamydiosis (Psittacosis, ornithosis); other infections including bacterial, fungal and protozoal (such as cryptosporidia, coccidia).
- Parasitism by internal parasites including blood parasites, and by external parasites including lice and mites.
- Poisons including heavy metals, notably lead, zinc (commonly from galvanised wire), copper and mercury; pesticides, especially organophosphates and organochlorines;
- bacterial toxins, mycotoxins (such as T-2 toxin and many others).
- Drug toxicity: overdose, too long, too much too often, and use of stale and expired drugs; inappropriate drug combinations; unnecessary and ineffective drugs; poisonous algae and plants: avocado, oleander etc.
- Pollutants, especially aerosols, tobacco and cigarette smoke.
- Tetracyclines and chelating agents
- Malnutrition associated with dietary deficiencies or excesses, low quality foods, unsuitable foods.
- Unfulfilled needs

- Lack of exercise
- Lack of space
- Crowding
- Lack of a compatible mate
- Lack of stimulation of the senses with variety, cycles of change, eg foods in season
- Lack of breeding opportunity
- Cage positioned low in terms of height without security from perceived threats
- Cage without protection from extremes of weather

The more severe and the more numerous the above factors, the greater the probability of poor health, possibly death, and unnecessary expense to the "owner". Furthermore, the birds will be predisposed to other diseases, may show ill-thrift, poor song, lack of vitality, untidy plumage, poor breeding performance and dull and listless behaviour.

Remember the basics!

It is with these and similar factors in mind that we consider the tools we have at hand to minimise their impact. As usual the most important tools seem to be what I call "elbow grease" and time, with a good sprinkling of knowledge and "common sense".

Cage design, planning, routine, persistence, sanitation, hygiene and quarantine are all factors or tools that I would put before drugs and chemotherapy wherever possible when aiming to prevent and control disease and maximize health.

Whenever treating birds change management to shift the balance for birds from disease towards health.

Some factors promoting disease

- Poor hygiene and sanitation such as "dirty" perches, food and water containers, cage floor, mouldy food and mouldy food debris, accumulations of old bird droppings.
- Inadequate cage with insufficient space to fly horizontally, to stretch wings, to exercise, to turn around without damaging wing or tail feathers, without adequate protection from inclement weather, wind, rain, sun, cold, and from wild birds, predators and pests (mice, rats).
- Exposed galvanised wire and other sources of heavy metal poisoning such as copper fly wire, copper tie wire, galvanised or soldered water and food containers, materials painted with lead-based paints or varnishes, or mercury backed mirrors.
- Sandpaper covered perches, cylindrical smooth dowelling or plastic perches, especially when positioned such that birds defecate from one perch onto another or into food and/or water containers.
- Inappropriate restricted diet fed ad lib without daily supplementation with a variety of fresh foods (usually grasses, fruit and/or vegetables).
- Offering poisonous foods such as avocado, green potato, rhubarb leaves, oleander.
- Exposure to cooking fumes especially scorched teflon, heating gas, cigarette smoke and/or pesticide sprays or fumes.
- Trying to live in close proximity to television or other sources of high energy fields.
- Kept without the opportunity for compatible companionship with own kind of opposite sex and opportunity to breed seasonally.
- Exposure to irregular duration artificial light and/or being left covered after dawn.
- In cage placed low to ground (below chest level), in sight of incompatible species or potential predators, without protective retreat areas and sight barriers.
- Treated with unnecessary and inappropriate drugs.
- Restricted by leg chains, wing clipping, pinioning, devocalisation.
- Being deprived of your love, understanding, awareness, compassion and respect.
- Being subjected to cruel, demeaning or callous thoughts and behaviour.

Some factors promoting health

- Good hygiene and sanitation with plenty of "elbow grease" used frequently rather than disinfectants to keep all parts of cage and furniture clean, free from mould and droppings.
- A long covered flight with perches positioned near each end with unobstructed flight path at least 3 wing spans wide, with adequate protection from inclement weather, wild birds, pests and predators.
- Daily access to fly in a hazard-free room if house pets (no chimney, no sources of poisons and toxins, no fan or heater or fire).
- Good quality wire protected with non-toxic black or dark green paint; if galvanised wire, it must be soaked in vinegar and scrubbed with wire brush, hosed off firmly and dried quickly and be of sufficient thickness to avoid being chewed through.
- Natural soft-timber branches from non-toxic trees chosen for their varying diameters and cross-sectional contours which are replaced as frequently as needed (not hardwood perches).
- A well balanced formulated diet with very restricted sunflower seeds if any, and supplemented with a wide variety of greens, fruits, vegetables and natural vegetation as appropriate.
- Access always to fresh clean air.
- Kept away from high energy electro-magnetic fields such as televisions, computers, clock-radios.
- Provided with a compatible mate of same species and opposite sex and with appropriate nesting facilities and additional dietary supplements during the breeding season.
- Exposed only to Nature's photoperiod.
- Provided with opportunity to perch at or above shoulder height, with visual barriers and safety and retreat zones within enclosure.
- Allowed unencumbered flight and preferably "tamed" while a fledgling so that not stressed by proximity to people or by gentle handling.
- Given drugs only if really necessary.
- Being given your love, compassion, understanding and respect selflessly.
- Being sent thoughts of healing, health and love and protected from those that may be harmful.

Concepts about infections

In health it is normal for animals, birds, people and plants to be host to a wide variety of living organisms, especially bacteria. Such organisms normally live in such a way that they are restricted to those parts of the body where their benefits outweigh any potential adverse effects. Often small numbers of organisms potentially capable of contributing to disease co-exist with the others without "causing" disease.

Infectious organisms are not "the cause" of disease?

We used to be taught, and many still believe, a naive, grossly simplified and grossly distorted concept whereby such and such organism causes such and such disease. For example, we have been taught the flu virus causes flu. This concept ignores all the factors that interact to determine whether or not a particular individual exposed to an infectious organism develops disease associated with that organism. Such a concept also blinkers our minds to an awareness of all the factors we can influence to change the probability of exposure to an infectious agent being followed by disease.

Infection and infectious.

We usually think of an infection as being when an agent capable of contributing to disease spreads into and often becomes established in those parts of the body where it interacts to produce disease or damage. "Infection" and "infectious" have similar but different meanings. Understanding the difference can be important. An organism can be infectious without being likely to contribute to or be involved in infection. The normal bacterial flora of the "gut" are infectious but appear to be rarely associated with infectious disease.

Strange questions?

Can birds think? Can birds have infectious thoughts? Can some bird thoughts contribute to or be associated with dis-----ease? Can some bird thoughts contribute to or be associated with disease? Are

birds really separated from us at a spiritual level?

Disease and death.

Disease and death are not truly “bad” but are important aspects of the cycles of life. We often fear death until we “believe” or “know” that death is but a transition of the consciousness or spirit from the “physical” world. Where does our consciousness go in our dreams, in meditation, in near-death experiences?

We may still fear death if we harbour guilts, if we elect to judge rather than forgive and love others and ourselves. We might also fear death if we don’t believe that we can be loved and forgiven by an all pervading consciousness and presence some call God. Fear of death is a matter of personal choice for people but possibly may not be so for animals?

Attitudes influence actions.

Our attitudes towards death and the death process, together with those attitudes of our clients dramatically influence many of the decisions we make on behalf of and concerning animals.

Euthanasia.

The appropriateness of “euthanasia” as an act of kindness is rarely questioned when it is applied to birds. Nor do we often question our attempts to extend the life of so many animals and the motives underlying them. What do we really “achieve” by so doing, beyond this physical reality?

More strange questions?

Can beliefs be infectious? Can some beliefs contribute to or be associated with disease?

Can birds have a belief? Can birds have infectious beliefs? Can some bird beliefs contribute to or be associated with dis-----ease? Can some bird beliefs contribute to or be associated with disease? Why is it that swallows sitting on a wire space themselves out with almost exactly six inches between each two neighbouring birds? Why is the distance for seagulls one foot and for flamingoes about two feet? Do birds have some kind of body that extends beyond what we perceive as the physical body? Do birds have an aura? If so, how far does it extend beyond the physical body? Do birds have more than one aura? If so, how does one differ from the other in terms of the individual, and in terms of species? Do any of the “auric forms” persist after “death”? If so, where do they “go”?

Does the statement of Sai Baba that ‘fear is the biggest cause of illness’ apply to birds?

What are the many implications of The 100th Monkey story as documented by scientists studying the behaviour of monkeys on isolated islands off Japan and related by Lyall Watson in one of his books, perhaps “Supernature”?

Contemplate the statement that “... physical information, such as in the genes and chromosomes, can be altered through experience and mental activity in other species as well as your own.” This is attributed to Seth, via Jane Roberts, in “The Nature of the Psyche: its human expression”

What is the good of the various life forms such as viruses that seem to plague us? Perhaps without them our immune system would not be sufficiently developed in us as a species to survive the contingencies and possibilities that could arise on this earth or in the even greater environment of the “heavens.”

What do you think about the following statement attributed to Seth, via Jane Roberts, in “The Nature of the Psyche: its human expression.”? “On some occasions long-term illnesses, for instance, are resolved suddenly through a dream. However, in most cases dreams prevent such chronic illnesses, providing through small therapeutics a constant series of minor but important personal revelations, that is, dreams are the best preventative medicine.”

Could it be that this applies to birds and other animals as well as to people? Do birds have dreams? Are organisms manifestations of dreams or thoughts of God?

Schoen and Wynn in their book “Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine . Principles and

Practice have sections dealing with a range of modalities including Aroma therapy, Bach Flower Remedies, acupuncture, and herbal therapies, as they are currently applied to some domestic animals, but not specifically birds.

Holistic medicine

Adapting some writings of Dr David and Linda McCluggage, we can say that holistic medicines can be thought of as viewing the patient as a whole being, acknowledging that all symptoms or signs of illness, since they arise from the same body, should be viewed and treated together. We can expand this concept to incorporate the concept commonly expressed in terms of “no man is an island”. We can recognise that our auras extend far beyond our bodies and very often if not always our auras and those of our pets are intermingling. Furthermore they are intermingling with those of other objects in the environment, be they animate or inanimate. Allopathic western medicine tends to isolate symptoms and signs, while placing aside other symptoms of the patient for a future time. With holistic medicine we try to treat the entire disease, not just some of the symptoms. We try to enable the animal to create its own wellness of body, mind and spirit. This means working on nutrition, the pets relationship with its family, the environment in which the bird lives and the totality of signs and/or symptoms of the patient. Holistic healers view mental symptoms and emotional symptoms as importantly as physical symptoms. We must also acknowledge that the animal must heal itself, and the veterinarian can only nudge the body’s vital forces towards health. Teaching responsible pet stewardship to the animal caretakers is an important aspect of this.

Therapeutic treatment modalities that the holistic veterinarian might more commonly employ include acupuncture (albeit rarely in birds, unless using high energy light), homeopathy, clinical nutrition, chiropractic, herbal therapy, flower essence therapy, touch therapy and allopathic medicine. However, beyond these modalities there are many others, and I will mention a few of those in the notes that follow.

Healing through the human energy field

I refer readers again to “Hands of Light. A Guide to Healing through the Human Energy Field” by Barbara Ann Brennan. Illustrated by Jos. A. Smith. This is a Bantam New Age Book expressing a new paradigm for the human being in health, relationship and disease. ISBN 0-553-05302-7 and 0-553-34539-7.

I also refer the reader to “Light Emerging. The Journey of Personal Healing” by Barbara Ann Brennan. Illustrated by Thomas J. Schneider and Joan Tartaglia. This is another Bantam New Age book and follows on from “Hands of Light”.

These books will help explain many aspects of alternative healing, especially distant healing, hands on healing, psychic healing and Reiki.

Kirlian photography and auras

Many of us will have heard of Kirlian photography that uses high voltage or energy fields to demonstrate the presence of auras around leaves, animals and people. Some of us have heard of the use of cobalt sulphate solution to help people see auras. Some of us may have seen Kirlian photographs of peoples’ hands and have been shown how the aura around the hand is affected by diseases elsewhere in the body.

However, theoretical “knowledge” is not the same as experiencing and doing. So often we need to “experience” or “do” before we believe.

Barbara Brennan details various exercises that help us perceive auras and to start healing. A few of these exercises are also mentioned in the “novel”, “The Celestine Prophecy”.

It is highly probable that each person in the audience with normal sight can also see their own aura around their fingers when taught how to do so. It is highly probable that if we practice doing so we will begin to detect almost instantaneous changes in the aura around our fingers coinciding with changes in our emotions. For example we can think of a situation that makes us angry. We can think of something that makes us feel sad. We can think of something that makes us laugh and be happy, we can imagine our bodies being filled

with love and cosmic energy, and we can mentally direct that energy with love from the right hand to the left, and back again. Later, as we remove our mental blocks we can direct that energy to another being, person or animal, and sometimes we can detect or be informed of a response.

An exercise

One such exercise is done with the light dim in a room. Hold your hands about one and a half inches (4cm) apart so the tips of the fingers point toward each other at a distance of about two feet in front of your face. Be sure that there is a plain whitewall for a background. Relax your eyes and softly gaze at the space between your fingertips and move each hand slightly closer and then further apart repeatedly. What is happening in the space between your fingers? What do you see around your hands? Slowly move one hand up and the other down so that different fingers are now pointing to each other. What do you see? What do you feel? Barbara Brennan notes that about 95% of people who try this exercise do see something and that everyone feels something. Do the exercise when you are calm and relaxed, just before going to bed, or in bed before turning out the light. Practise it!

Later, when you are calm, try projecting that calmness to the birds you are examining through your hands. Try enveloping them with love. If you feel comfortable doing so, invite the love of God or All-That-Is to be flow through you and your hands to, through and around your birds. Practise and be patient. Observe what happens when you are distracted, when the phone rings!

Healing by sound.

There are tapes by Dr Deepak Chopra about this as it applies to people. He teaches that in Ayurvedic medicine, for example, that the extended sounds of the various vowels in the English language, when repeated, each facilitate healing of different diseases. In my opinion it is likely that we will discover applications for helping birds heal. Start by reading “Quantum Healing” by Dr Deepak Chopra.

Music

Chamber music and recordings of Bach and Mozart appear to be enjoyed by most sick birds. Birds appear to also be helped by playing recordings of other birds of their own kind and similar species “chattering” or “singing” whereas they often “go silent” or appear distressed if they hear the sounds of predatory birds or of distressed and alarmed birds. Playing recordings of “bush sounds”, Kakadu, etc. to hospitalised birds will probably be beneficial to many birds.

Healing with colour, shapes and patterns

Birds are sensitive to colour, shapes and patterns. They become alarmed by the visual cue of the outline of certain predators such as hawks. Black is threatening to many birds. Greens and browns in patterns mimicking nature are probably calming. Bright orange and yellow and black stripes can be threatening. Consider these aspects when selecting a towel or cloth with which to catch and restrain birds, and with which to cover their cages. Remember that colours are likely to affect some families and orders of birds differently.

Homeopathy

There is an Academy of Veterinarian Homeopathy in the USA. Homeopathy according to the World Health Organisation is the second most popular form of health medicine in the world today, surpassing traditional western medicine as it is applied to people. David McCluggage BS DVM mentions an example to support the claim that homeopathy “works”. A recently published study on the treatment of varicose veins using a combination of eight homeopathic medicines reported a significant improvement in the symptoms of cramps, itching and leg heaviness. The research showed blood circulation in the leg improved by 44% in those taking the homeopathic remedies while those who took a placebo deteriorated by 18%. Homeopathy means treating with medicines that are able to create signs or symptoms that are similar to the disease (“like cures like”). Homeopathic remedies are highly diluted from their original amount (thus removing the potential for any harmful side effects and succussed or shaken in a specific

manner during the dilution process. This succussion is believed to strengthen the remedy, or “potentize” it.

Traditional Chinese Medicine.

I refer you to “Four paws, Five Directions” for an introduction to this. We are just starting to explore the application of some basic combinations for helping to shift the balance from bird disease to bird health.

Acupuncture

There exist acupuncture charts for some birds but I do not have a copy of these and have not practised acupuncture or acupressure on birds.

Preparations used at Homebush Animal Hospital.

The following are preparations used and supplied in the hope that they may in someway facilitate healing or slow or delay deterioration of the health of those receiving them.

Australian Bush Flower Essences.

The concentrated preparations are supplied by Australian Bush Flower Essences, as per Ian White. (See the book “Australian Bush Flower Essences” by Ian White.)

Until recently I diluted the concentrated essences in 25% brandy and 75% distilled, aired water that had been exposed to sunlight in glass as per the directions at the rear of Ian White’s book. The brandy is used as a preservative. The human dose of these diluted essences is 7 drops twice a day for 14-28 days in many cases. I found that sulphur crested cockatoos could often be given 7 drops twice a day without appearing intoxicated. Budgerigars and lovebirds could sometimes become “drunk” if given 3 or more drops twice a day, so I limited my direct oral dosage to 1 drop per 50 gram body weight twice a day, and usually prescribed this initially for 4 weeks.

The combination of Australian Bush Flower Essences that I usually prescribed was Waratah, Illawarra Flame, Sturt Desert Rose, Dagger Hakea and Mountain Devil. More recently I have been using those in combination with Fringed Violet, Slender Rice Flower, Sturt Desert Pea, Green Essence and Flannel Flower. I have put together this combination to help the immune system and to calm or reduce the stress level of the patient.

On some occasions I will add additional flower essences, not necessarily those of Australian Bush Flowers. On other occasions I will offer single flower essences such as Black Eyed Susan, or Emergency Essence.

Because of my concerns about subclinical chronic alcohol toxicity, I have recently replaced the 25% brandy water diluent with 15 ml distilled water and 7 drops of Dr Willards Catalyst Altered Water with Lignite (commonly abbreviated “CAW XXX”). (Refer to the book “Aqua Vitae. The Story of Dr. John W. Willard and his Breakthrough Discovery: Catalyst Altered Water. Second Edition” by Roy M. Jacobsen.)

The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible. (Arthur C. Clarke.)

Furthermore for the past year or so I have been adding to the Australian Bush Flower Essence combination approximately an 1/8th teaspoon of Vibhuti directly from Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, India to which I have applied Sanathana Sai Sanjeevini for P.B.F.D. and cancer. To this I also sometimes apply other Sanjeevinis according to my perceptions of the bird’s needs. The dropper bottles containing this formulation should be kept in the fridge to prolong shelf life and every effort should be made to avoid contamination of the product with bacteria and fungi.

After I have discussed any known traditional approaches to therapy, be they surgical, medical or otherwise, and for whatever reasons these have been ruled out, or if the client wants to use “alternative therapies” in conjunction with or following conventional allopathic medicines, I use the above combination of bush flower

essences, CAW XXX and Vibhuti x SSS as one of the main adjuncts to management of birds and other pets with so called incurable diseases that might be attributable to abnormal immune system function from some perspective. (That was a long sentence!)

Herbal treatments.

I was originally introduced to these by Susan Scott. Susan has been practising as an animal herbalist from North Katoomba for many years. Susan often uses a pendulum to help her select a combination of herbs for a particular individual. I have not become proficient or confident about using a pendulum myself, but do use a base formula of herbs as originally suggested by Susan. This formula uses a combination of capsules and tablets (Nature's Sunshine brand) which includes Echinacea, Slippery Elm and many other products.:

To obtain this in powdered form the various capsules are pulled apart and their contents combined with the crushed tablets.

This preparation is also kept in the fridge in sealed plastic bags with surplus air expressed.

This formulation was used by me as a herbal mix until about 2 years ago. (Since then I have added other ingredients.) The mixture is quite spicy and the echinacea leaves a furry almost local anaesthetic after taste on the (human) tongue. I have dispensed it with the advice to add a small pinch (up to 1/8th teaspoon for a sulphur crested cockatoo) fresh daily to the daily allowance of food for the bird pre-moisted with a few drops of coconut or vegetable oil so the powder didn't gravitate to the bottom of the container. (More recently I have suggested that a few drops of the Australian Bush Flower Essences be used to moisten the food.)

I referred to the use of this combination in my notes on Psittacine Pruritic Polyfolliculosis in Avian Diagnostics, Proceedings 221 of the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, September 1993. At that time I was not aware of the product marketed as "The Missing Link", nor was I aware that there might be beneficial therapeutic effects from shark cartilage, Vibhuti or Sanathana Sai Sanjeevini. I currently combine the former herbal mix with the latter ingredients and advise mixing some of this in the daily allowance of food fresh daily. I suggest introducing the powder gradually over a week starting with a light dusting, like pepper, gradually increasing to the prescribed quantity.

Sanathana Sai Sanjeevini.

Refer to a book who's title page reads "Om Sai Ram Sanathana Sai Sanjeevinihealing fragrances. A spiritual healing system to awaken the body's own healing power. (Healing with Prayers) A Healer's Guide" This book was published in 1995 by the Sai Sanjeevini Foundation whose Administration Office is or was 108/39A Silver Oaks, DLF Phase 1, Gurgaon, Haryana 122002, India.

I first visited India and Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi in October 1996, at which time a letter from me was personally accepted by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In that letter, together with other things, I sought help treating PBFD and learning about other methods of healing. Within 48 hours of this event, I obtained my copy of the above book and also some Vibhuti. I began exploring the use of this upon my return to Australia. Much to my delight and bewilderment, I later received by mail a supplement to this book published in April 1997. This contains a Sanathana Sai Sanjeevini specifically for P.B.F.D. I include a copy of one side of the appropriate "card" with these notes. I have since incorporated that Sanjeevini into Vibhuti mixed with Australian Bush Flower Essences, Herbal mixes, and applied or given directly to various birds with clinical psittacine beak and feather disease. Unfortunately I am unable to attribute any certain cures of PBFD to this therapy to date. This apparent "failure to deliver" begs a number of obvious questions, and perhaps some less obvious ones which relate to how I am using the Sai Sanathana Sanjeevini cards, how and in what quantity and frequency I am administering the Vibhuti. I have sought answers to these questions, but perhaps these have yet to filter through to my consciousness!

To date all doses are empirical, that is, arrived at by trial, by intuition, and by derivation from human doses. Client and bird compliance and/or lack of it, is likely to contribute to the uncertainty or unpredictability of clinical benefits associated with their use. However, enough "miracles" occur to encourage me to keep offering these treatments in such circumstances as where no cure is known to exist, using allopathic medicines and where surgical management of tumours has been declined.

Symbols for healing?

I wonder about the roles SEICHIM and Sanathana Sai Sanjeevini symbols similar to those outlined below might play in helping the healing of many of the so called “incurable diseases” of the twentieth century in the century to follow. I wonder...

Further reading.

“Australian Bush Flower Essences” by Ian White. Bantam.

Avian Diagnostics, Proceedings 221 of the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, September 1993

“Chiron” The Newsletter of the Australian Association of Holistic Veterinarians, c—Kathy Cormack, 135 Rochford St, Erskineville, Sydney, 2043 (maslow@aisl.com.au)

“Four Paws Five Directions. A Guide to Chinese Medicine for Dogs and Cats.” Cheryl Schwartz Celestial Arts, Berkeley, California.

“Flower Essences of Alaska” by Steve M. Johnson. Alaskan Flower Essence Project, P.O. Box 1369, Homer, Alaska 99603.

“Hands of Light. A Guide to Healing through the Human Energy Field” by Barbara Ann Brennan. Illustrated by Jos. A. Smith. Bantam New Age Book ISBN 0-553-05302-7 and 0-553-34539-7.

“Light Emerging. The Journey of Personal Healing” by Barbara Ann Brennan. Illustrated by Thomas J. Schneider and Joan Tartaglia. Bantam New Age book.

“Sai Ram Sanathana Sai Sanjeevinihealing fragrances. A spiritual healing system to awaken the body’s own healing power. (Healing with Prayers) A Healer’s Guide” Published in 1995 by the Sai Sanjeevini Foundation, Administration Office: 108/39A Silver Oaks, DLF Phase 1, Gurgaon, Haryana 122002, India

Schoen A.M. and Wynn S.G. (1998) Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine. Principles and Practice. Published by Mosby.

Watson, Lyall. (1971) Supernature. Coronet Books, Hodder Paperbacks Ltd, London.

I am happy to supply a far more extensive reading list by personal request.

