

# Your Pets and Lyme Disease

by Stephen Tobin, DVM

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I am a holistic veterinarian in Connecticut and have treated several hundred cases of Lyme disease in the past five years. After trying various homeopathic preparations, with only limited success, I found that *Ledum* in a 1M potency is about as close as you can get to a specific cure. I have used it in dogs, cats, and horses, and it does not seem to matter whether it is a recent infection, a year old, treated or untreated—they all respond curatively. I have not had a single case that did not improve.

While I do not treat human beings, some of my clients with animals suffering from Lyme disease have taken *Ledum* 1M for their own Lyme disease infections, after seeing the positive result with their animals. The feedback I have gotten is all positive. I have told numerous naturopaths and homeopathic MDs about *Ledum*. One homeopathic MD runs titers [a blood test to determine antibodies] on all his Lyme disease patients, both before and after treatment with *Ledum*, and has found that there is a constant decline in titer after *Ledum*.

For treatment of Lyme disease, I give one pellet of *Ledum* 1M three times a day for three days. For prevention of Lyme disease in dogs, I have been using *Borrellia burgdorferi* 60X nosode, a homeopathic preparation [of the Lyme bacteria]. I give orally one dose daily for one week, then one dose a week for one month, then one dose every six months. In the past four years, I have had only two dogs out of over five hundred on this regimen that might have contracted Lyme disease, both of which readily cleared with *Ledum*.

While there is a canine vaccine for Lyme disease, I haven't found it very effective. One vet who uses it extensively told me she feels it provides protection for about a third of the dogs receiving it. I have seen a number of Lyme disease cases in dogs starting five to six weeks after vaccination (these also resolve with *Ledum*). In an April 1993 letter, the Cornell Veterinary School Diagnostic Lab



wrote about a study of dogs with a clear history and diagnosis of Lyme disease: 56% had antibodies as determined by the western blot test only against the vaccine, with another 32% having antibodies against the vaccine and spirochete itself. In other words, more than half had Lyme disease because of the vaccine and almost a third had Lyme disease despite the vaccine.

One breeder told me that before she started using the homeopathic nosode, at least one dog and one family member would contract Lyme disease each year, but since using the nosode as a preventative (for the family and dogs), they have not had one case. Her husband was bitten twice by deer ticks last summer and developed a rash the size of a dime, whereas in the past, when he was bitten by a deer tick and subsequently developed Lyme disease, the rash was "twice the size of a half dollar."

I know a number of naturopaths who use *Borrellia burgdorferi* nosode as part of their treatment protocol for Lyme disease. One client, to whom I have given the nosode for her horse, took it herself and told me that the Lyme disease she had been suffering from for several years cleared up.

**2008 Update:** Contacted at his office in Connecticut in June of this year, Dr. Tobin remarked, "I have been using this same treatment protocol for the past 14 years—*Ledum* 1M for 3 days—and have still been getting good results. The symptoms clear up, and this is true whether the infection is recent or chronic. And I'm certainly glad to be able to get these results from a course of *Ledum* for 3 days rather than having to put the animal on a course of doxycycline (antibiotics) for a month, which is the conventional protocol.

"I also still use the nosode remedy, *Borrellia burgdorferi*, as a preventative. While I don't find it to be 100% effective, I think it's more effective than the Lyme disease vaccine."

## LYME SYMPTOMS IN ANIMALS ARE DIFFERENT

Animals rarely display the characteristic skin rash that humans get, and some infected animals show no symptoms whatsoever. For those that do get symptoms, the first sign may be lameness that shows up weeks or months after becoming infected, and sometimes lethargy, fever, low appetite, and swollen lymph glands. More serious problems (e.g., kidney disease in dogs) are possible if the disease becomes chronic, but many experts say this is extremely rare.

**Note:** There is some controversy about the prevalence of chronic Lyme disease in animals as well as in humans. Some people claim that chronic Lyme disease is underdiagnosed because its symptoms can look like many other illnesses (Lyme disease is sometimes called "the great imitator"); others claim that chronic Lyme disease is overdiagnosed because with blood tests sometimes unreliable and such a broad array of symptoms attributed to chronic Lyme, it can be a "convenient" diagnosis that can't be validated.

—Homeopathy Today staff

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steven Tobin, DVM, studied veterinary medicine in Munich, Germany, and has been in private practice since 1987. He is past-president of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical and a member of the Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy. He has a clinic in Meriden, CT, but also does housecalls and telephone consultations.