ANIMAL HEALTH

Plants for animal healthcare

by Ines Vivian Domingo

BEFORE USING A PLANT FOR TREATMENT Be very sure you have identified the correct plant. If you are unsure, ask people with skills in using herbal treatments for their advice. Never use a plant unless you are sure it is the right one.

TO MAKE A POULTICE Pound and soften the fresh plant material. Mix with a little warm oil, apply to the skin and hold in place with a piece of clean cloth. Sometimes, mashed boiled rice or corn flour is used instead of oil.

TO BOIL LEAVES Use earthen pots if possible and boil for 15–20 minutes. Cool and strain liquid before using.

1 cup is approximately 200ml.

**Moringa**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** anaemia, bleeding
**METHOD** Boil a kilo of leaves in 4.5 litres of water. When cool, divide the liquid into small doses and drench the animal with 1 dose 2–3 times a day until the animal recovers. Boil the leaves and use liquid as a sponge bath to relieve fever in animals.

**Guava**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** diarrhoea, wounds
**METHOD** Boil half a kilo of leaves in 3 glasses of water and use as a drench twice a day for 3–4 days. Boil fresh leaves and use the liquid to clean scratches, cuts and wounds. Make a poultice from fresh leaves to stop bleeding of shallow cuts.

**Tamarind**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** cold, cough and fever
**METHOD** Boil a kilo of leaves in 2 litres of water. Give the liquid as a drench 2–3 times a day for 3–4 days. Use as a sponge bath to relieve fever in animals. Boil fresh leaves and use the liquid to clean scratches, cuts and wounds.

**Ervatamia**

**PART USED** juice
**TO TREAT** wounds
**METHOD** Boil fresh leaves and use the liquid to clean scratches, cuts and wounds.

**Five-leaved chaste tree**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** cold, cough, fever and wounds
**METHOD** Pound fresh rhizomes and apply the juice or a poultice of fresh leaves to heal cuts and wounds.

**Ginger**

**PART USED** rhizomes
**TO TREAT** wounds
**METHOD** Pound fresh rhizomes and apply the liquid to clean scratches, cuts and wounds.

**Garlic**

**PART USED** cloves
**TO TREAT** poisoning
**METHOD** Boil 3 heads of garlic, pound and mix with 1 glass of water. Give 1 glass of the mixture as drench to make the animal vomit. Repeat if no vomiting occurs. Apply a poultice of fresh leaves to stop bleeding of shallow cuts.

**Five-leaved chaste tree**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** cold, cough, fever and wounds
**METHOD** Pound fresh leaves and mix with water and given as drench 3 times a day until the animal recovers.

**Coconut**

**PART USED** water of young coconuts
**TO TREAT** dehydration
**METHOD** The coconut water is given to animals with diarrhoea to prevent dehydration. Mix the water from 3–5 young coconuts with a cup of brown sugar and a little salt and give 2–3 litres of the solution as a drench 3 times a day until the animal recovers.

**Ginger**

**PART USED** rhizomes
**TO TREAT** wounds
**METHOD** Pound fresh rhizomes and apply the liquid to clean scratches, cuts and wounds.

**Artemisia (mugwort)**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** wounds
**METHOD** Boil fresh leaves and use the liquid to clean scratches, cuts and wounds.

**Camphor**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** cold, cough and fever
**METHOD** Boil a handful of leaves in 1 litre of water for 15–20 minutes. Use earthen pots for boiling if possible. Allow to cool and strain out the leaves. Use the liquid as a drench within 24 hours. Give 1/4–1 litre twice a day for 1–3 days. Boil the leaves and use liquid as a sponge bath to relieve fever in animals.

**Bitter gourd**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** anaemia, internal parasites
**METHOD** M. charantia can also be used as a dewormer. Pound the leaves and extract the juice to give as a drench in water 1–3 times within one day. Repeat after 2 weeks.

**Banana**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** bloat
**METHOD** Chop 3–5 leaves and feed to the animal twice a day until it recovers. However, this remedy is only good for mild cases or during the early stages of bloat.

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**Star apple**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** internal parasites
**METHOD** Pound the fresh leaves and rub the juice on the affected area 2–3 times a day until the parasites are gone.

**Guava**

**PART USED** fresh leaves
**TO TREAT** diarrhoea
**METHOD** Boil half a kilo of the leaves in 3 glasses of water. Give as a drench using 1–2 cups of the liquid 3 times a day for 1–3 days.

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