



Crow River  
Animal Hospital  
& Dental Clinic

Friday Fun Facts – Number 8:2010

## Melissa Shelton DVM – Great Cases: Part I

*Disclaimer: All of the information provided here is intended for educational purposes. The information is not intended to diagnose, treat, or prescribe for any illness. Please seek the advice of a qualified health care professional in your area of concern if you or your pets have a health challenge.*

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This FFF, I am going to present some of the great cases we have treated with holistic medicine. For the last year and a half, we have been using essential oils in some “hopeless” cases, but also in those where traditional medicine has proven itself to not be working, or has little to offer. I strongly believe in using traditional medicine to accurately diagnose a problem and to treat it when treatments show good results with little side effects. However, sometimes we have to step out of the box.

**Case 1:** A sweet little kitten, who was stepped on in my very own household. This kitten had full adult weight put onto him, right on his chest. He actually seized and convulsed after his injury. His breathing was very labored and noisy. I was certain he would die. We took x-rays of him, and he showed significant bruising in the lungs (pulmonary contusions). Traditionally, there is not much we can do for these cases. Oxygen support and a “wait and see” type of approach is about all we have to offer. Typically, these lesions continue to get worse for the first 24 hours, then gradually start to improve, much like any bruise on the skin.

Non-traditional medicine was perfect in this situation. The first thing we did was to give him a homeopathic remedy called Arnica Montana (30c). We immediately gave 3 pellets by mouth, and continued it every hour until we went to bed. Next, I opened a bottle of Frankincense and wafted it under his nose. This would increase oxygenation, and life force energy. There are many benefits to Frankincense, and it would be an oil I would never hesitate to use in any condition. Then, I “tipped” his ears with Helichrysum, Frankincense, and Copaiba Essential Oils. These were focusing on bruising, inflammation, and oxygenation. It was after these initial treatments that his x-rays were taken.

After getting his x-rays, we also shined an Indigo Color Light Therapy session on him. One hour on, and two hours off. We continued this for about 4 treatments, and then changed to Green Color Light Therapy. Indigo is the color spectrum that is anti-hemorrhagic. We also started diffusing Helichrysum Essential Oil in a nebulizing water diffuser – right into his face/airways. He seemed to really like it, and would lie very close to the mist. We diffused this, pretty much constantly for the first 12 hours. Helichrysum is an amazing oil, and well worth its price tag!

Results: Within 12 hours, not only was the kitten breathing better, he had started to play! This is pretty unheard of traditionally, especially with the amount of injury there was to his lungs (and since I was certain he would die). For him to improve in 12 hours, instead of to continue to bruise and worsen in the first 24 hours – I was VERY impressed. He had a slight click to his breathing for about a day and a half after the “event”, but made a complete and wonderful recovery! Every time I would listen to his lungs (which was every hour) there would be improvement.



**Case 2:** The above dog pictured, is not the dog in this case. However, it is a picture of the same condition. A Great Dane presented to us with an acute episode of Masticatory Myositis. In this condition, considered autoimmune in origin, the muscles on the head become inflamed and very hard and swollen. Eyes bulge, and often the dogs can't eat or open their mouths. Traditionally, the prognosis is not very good long term. Treatment starts with massive doses of steroids given IV. Often times, we have to continue to increase our immune suppressive treatments adding more drugs and higher doses, with relapses and failure quite common. With this prognosis, the owners were unwilling to put their dog through this treatment plan, which is riddled with side effects.

We decided that at least we could try something for the next 24-48 hours, as the dog was still fairly comfortable. If we could find a natural remedy to help the condition, with fewer side effects – it would save the dogs life. At 11pm at night, we decided to try a Raindrop Essential Oil Treatment since it contains 8-9 different essential oils creating a very strong and broad action for the entire body. We focused a lot on the oils of Marjoram and Aroma Seiz Blend, as these

target muscles and muscle relaxation in particular. This treatment can be modified to include other oils, to specifically target certain areas of concern.

Results: In an update the following morning, the owners reported that much of the swelling was gone by 6am. The rest of it was gone within 24 hours. None of the University cases I treated in vet school responded this quickly, even when treated with steroids. I was extremely impressed again. We continued giving Raindrop Therapies every 3 days for 2 weeks. Then went to weekly for about a month, then every other week, then monthly. The myositis has not relapsed, and it has been over a year.

**Case 3:** This one is a fun one! A wonderful dog breeder came to us with a dog due any day with its first litter. Her dogs are some of the top in the nation, so of course we were concerned with any potential problems associated with delivering her pups. The momma was classically a dog who would have been a little more prone to “stressing out”, so naturally the owner was concerned that her state of mind could affect the delivery. Since she was pregnant, we also wanted to make sure that we did everything as safe as possible for the pups and mom. Traditionally, I have nothing to offer this situation. However, Essential Oils can make such an emotional impact for humans and animals, I felt that diffusing a nice calming oil would be the greatest way to stack the odds in our favor, that both owner and dog would be calm, cool, and collected during delivery.

I actually loaned out one of my very own diffusers (you don't know how painful this is for me ☺), and sent home the blend of Gentle Baby and Lavender single essential oil. The initial plan was to use the Gentle Baby only, with a light touch, since neither the dog nor owner had been exposed to essential oils before. I didn't want to overwhelm either one of them. I planned for the Lavender to be used as a “back up plan” in case the labor was extremely difficult, painful or stressful. Lavender is known to have relaxed strong and painful contractions, and also has a nice calming effect (good for dog and owner, I thought!).

Well, as our owner was becoming very sleep deprived and also a little stressed out, she got the diffuser going with both the Gentle Baby AND the Lavender right away. I believe everything happens for a reason, so obviously, the dog and owner needed these oils in a stronger amount, and both together (even if I didn't know it). The owner then went to sleep (lavender is great for sleep), since the dog wasn't due for another few days. She also wasn't showing any signs of labor, so all seemed well. The owner awakened a few hours later to the sounds of a puppy! The momma dog never showed the typical distress of pre-labor and actually SLEPT through her labor and delivery. She was peaceful and calm, and definitely knew when a pup was coming out, but didn't have the typical reactions to the delivery, except a slight yelp at crowning. It was the most peaceful and “strange” delivery this experienced breeder had ever seen in 25 years, and almost 30 litters of “professionally whelped pups”.

The owner reported that this would definitely not be the dog that you would expect to be peaceful during a delivery. Momma even allowed the male dog to come and visit her and the new pups, which was quite unlike her. The owner is actually a Nurse, heavily involved in the medical fields. Needless to say, she was quite taken aback by the obvious and powerful effects these oils displayed in her situation!

Of course we have MANY more cases, and I enjoy collecting laboratory data and case reports on all of them. It has been incredibly rewarding to have something else to offer, in the cases where traditionally I am left with only questions and a wish to help. Spring is coming, and I am getting into our busy season. FFF's will be a little shorter, but there is still so much to share!

In an effort to document more essential oil case studies in animals – I am offering free consultations (a \$50 value) for those enrolled under our sponsorship in Young Living (customer or distributor). In exchange for the consultation, you must maintain good treatment records, take pictures when indicated, and maintain a little “diary” documenting responses along the way. I hope this won't be a limited time offer – but I would recommend you take advantage of it soon. When spring hits – I usually have much less time!

As always, I hope you enjoy these tidbits! I certainly enjoy putting them together – and hope you can all start to appreciate my weird sense of humor. I have really enjoying emailing back and forth with everyone – and LOVE learning from all of you as well – keep it coming!!

*“Nature gave us the gift of healing. Providing our bodies the nutrients and care required to heal, lies in our own actions.”*

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