

PIVH Student Form: Guidelines

The PIVH Professional Course in Veterinary Homeopathy **STUDENT FORUM** is designed to enhance the learning of current students and course graduates retaking the program. Our goal is to create a resource where students may ask questions, clarify principles, and receive guidance in their studies and casework. The forum is designed as a teaching aid to facilitate an active (problem-based) learning process. The mentors will help answer or guide you to answer your questions, and help you problem-solve your own cases for optimal learning.

In order to make this an ideal learning experience for everyone on the forum, we ask that you follow the forum guidelines. These guidelines help your mentors address your need for help most efficiently and expediently. Courtesy and kindness are required of all participants — we are all here to work and learn together.

Please remember mentors are taking time out of their busy practice schedules to graciously provide this volunteer service. Your cooperation and question preparation is greatly appreciated and essential for the mentors to most effectively help you learn.

FORUM FOCUS: The primary function of this forum is to aid your study of classical homeopathy. Content should be kept strictly to topics associated with the study of classical homeopathy. Please keep this in mind.

COURSE QUESTIONS: For any course-specific related questions please contact the program director, Dr. Sarah Stieg directly: info@pivh.org

FORUM TOPICS: The forum is divided into the following categories, which are designed to help focus your queries and forum study:

- Course Announcements
- Theory
- Materia Medica
- Repertory / Rubric Study / Symptom Translation
- Case Help
- Software
- Homework

POSTING A TOPIC: Select the category that fits your question best, then click on the category name (such as 'Theory'). When you click on a category name/title, this will show you all the TOPICS posted in that category. You then can read and join conversations on specific topics and/or start a new topic discussion.

When starting a **NEW TOPIC POST** – scroll to the bottom of this screen, where you'll see a box to do so. Please title the topic with a succinct title, then simply write your query in the text box below.

You can select a **TICK BOX** at the bottom, to determine if you want to receive replies by email – the text will say: *Notify me of follow-up replies via email.* If you don't want to receive replies by email, then leave this un-ticked, and you will need to log into the forum to see all activity on your post.

Student Forum Guidelines

You can add images or documents (blood work) if needed. The most common images students tend to upload are screen-shots of their homeopathic analysis. Please be mindful that the current file upload size is 1MB limit. We recommend that you reduce the size of attachments to much less than this, otherwise it will slow-down the website page loading for others to view and respond to your thread.

SEARCH FUNCTION: There is a 'search box' at the top right of the forum home page. You can type any word(s) in this box, and it will search the ENTIRE forum for any posts which contain your search words. Use this function to help you find if any students have posted a similar question before, or if you want to see all conversations relating to a specific topic. For example, you could search for a remedy (e.g. 'Arnica'), and look at all the posts related to that specific remedy.

URGENT CASES: Please note this forum is not designed for emergency case work. Please be aware that all the faculty and mentors are working clinicians, thus cannot staff the forum 24/7.

On the faculty contact list you will find all the faculty and mentors with phone numbers provided who are available for you to contact for urgent cases. While you may contact those who have volunteered to be available by phone, if no faculty/mentor is available when you ring (and you need to make a quick decision), select the best fitting remedy of your choice. If you are not getting the response you are looking for and the case is of an urgent nature, then simply follow through with the treatment modality you would have previously used in your practice.

Please then post your case and related questions on the email forum as a learning tool to help prepare you for the next time this type of urgent case presents in your practice.

BRIEF GUIDE NOTES ON ACUTE CASE POSTING:

- ◆ When posting a new Topic under Case Help, use the following title:
 - “**CASE: Patient Name**” (e.g. CASE: Daisy, or CASE: GI foreign body)
 - Please use the animal's name (**DO NOT** include the client's surname for privacy protection). Or you may post a question about a specific clinical condition, e.g. What is the common remedy for a GI Foreign Body in the stomach vs. the intestines?
- ◆ When posting an acute case for guidance – please write to us as if you are speaking to another veterinarian in case rounds. Begin with the signalment, presenting complaint, details of current problem, previous treatment, etc. Then provide us with your assessment of the case and your questions. You can present this information as a simple outline or bullet points.
- ◆ Please see the **ACUTE CASE FORMAT** on the following page, provided as a suggested outline. You do not have to strictly use this outline format, but **ALL** this information must be covered in an organized succinct summary.
- ◆ You can also submit a brief case/remedy question, but please provide us with enough information to give you a thoughtful response.
- ◆ The email forum is a learning tool to help you walk through the process of case prescribing when you need assistance. However, the mentors are here to mentor and not work your case up for you. Thus, if a case is submitted with insufficient information, you will be asked to re-submit your case and will not receive any response/advice until the case is resubmitted with the adequate information available.

Email Forum: Acute Case Posting Format

The purpose of using a specific format for posting cases is to facilitate cases being presented in a concise and organized manner. This will aid the mental clarity of the student and increase the efficiency and expediency of the mentor's response. Similar to a case presented in traditional case rounds, the suggested format will give the mentor a complete but BRIEF organized overview of the case.

This sample formatting is a suggestion and can be abbreviated. However, if there is insufficient information provided, you will be asked to resubmit your case with the relevant information before any mentoring advice can be given. Please try to list, number, or "bullet" information, and note that brevity and conciseness are vital to a speedy response. You can also refer to your *Guide Notes in Case Taking: Taking the Acute Case* in the Case Study section in your workbook.

Acute/Acute-Flare-ups of Chronic Disease Case Posting Format:

Please title the email – CASE: PATIENT NAME (Note: Do NOT include the client's surname for privacy protection); this is crucial to enabling the mentors to track emails pertaining to a specific case.

Patient information *Name & signalment (age, sex, breed, species)*

Patient Problem *Brief one sentence summary of presenting complaint(s) of patient.*

Current Complaints *List current symptoms with associated modalities, concomitants, and other changes since ill. Please also include current diet (please be specific of content and percentage, i.e. do not just say a "raw diet", how long been on this diet), current supplements, and current list of medications (including flea control, wormers, etc.) and dosages (ideally duration of use).*

Examples:

- *Stiffness, worse after rest, better with movement*
- *Vomiting, within 10-20 minutes of eating*

Brief History / Relevant Historical Complaints *Summarize any relevant history, treatments/ response and underline characteristic symptoms. Please use DATES not ages or time references (such as two weeks ago).*

Example:

- *Date, Condition – TXT medication/herbs/remedies prescribed, patient response?*
- *2017 Mar 21, Previous cystitis episode – TXT: Clavamox, resolved over 4-5 days*

Current Patient Examination Findings (PE, Lameness Exam, Laboratory Data, RAD's, etc.)

Please summarize any relevant findings.

Student Forum Guidelines

Assessment *In 1-2 lines (or bullet points), please clearly indicate as the clinician what is your assessment or problem list for this case.*

Homeopathic Work up *Answer the following questions to the best of your ability, put N/A if non-applicable.*

- a) Is this case well taken?
- b) Obstacles to cure (e.g. previous treatment, poor diet, etc.)? Can they be corrected?
- c) Acute/Acute Flare-up of Chronic Disease:
- d) Vitality (0-10 with 10 being highest; or low/medium/high):
- f) Seat of Illness/Organ Affinity (functional and/or pathological changes?):
- g) Causation:
- h) Never well since:
- i) Keynotes:

Homeopathic Symptom List *List all useful homeopathic symptoms.*

- 1. Symptom [e.g. Drinking small amounts often]

Homeopathic Repertorisation *Paste analysis graph here and note repertory used, or if using a hand-analysis please list rubrics & associated repertory used.*

Homeopathic Discussion/Differentials *Top remedy differentials? Which remedy do you think is most appropriate for this patient and why?*

Plan *Clearly indicate you treatment plans in a numbered list.*

- 1. RX Remedy? Potency? Dose (single dose vs. dosing reassessment time period)?
- 2. Supportive care needed? (wound cleaning/bandaging, fluid therapy, etc.)
- 3. Follow-up schedule and method (phone, email, exam)?

Questions for the Group

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Follow-up Case Posting Format: *Continue from previous post, do not start a new topic as this is imperative for mentors to track your case. Exception to this rule – if the discussion changes to a different topic, then start a new topic and “fork” the thread by leaving the original subject line partial intact, e.g. Posology – was CASE: Fifi with cardiomyopathy.*

Patient Information *Name & signalment (age, sex, breed, species)*

Presenting Problem *Brief one sentence summary of presenting complaint(s) of patient.*

Remedy Response List *List of remedies used, potency, and date they were given. This needs to be clearly presented in the beginning of your follow-up to allow mentors to quickly review the case. An accurate remedy response list helps everyone see the patterns of response: how long did the response to the remedy last; interval between doses increasing/decreasing, as well as what remedies were used prior to this follow-up. It's also great training for how to keep clinical records, as having this list at the top of the patient file makes life much easier in a busy practice.*

Symptoms Post Remedy *Date (time if relevant) remedy was given. List remedy, potency, dose.*

1. Improvement or change in vitality/wellness? Please define what the patient is doing for the client to interpret this, e.g. appetite, energy, normal behaviors?
2. Review Current Symptoms – list and identify each as: Same, Modified, Declined/Worse, or Better/Improved/Resolving? Please try to quantify or score the change, but in ways that we can interpret what's happened, e.g. mild, moderate, marked; decreased by fifty percent since presentation; decreased by thirty percent since last remedy, etc..
— e.g. *Stiffness, worse rest – Improved 50% since last exam on ____*
3. New Symptoms, Modalities, Concomitants?

Homeopathic Assessment *As a clinician, how is your case responding? Is the response: curative, palliative, or suppressive in nature (and why); was there a primary aggravation observed to the remedy?*

If case needs a new Prescription – Review/Retake the following:

1. Homeopathic Symptom List
2. Homeopathic Repertorisation [Note Repertory(s) Used]
3. Homeopathic Discussion/Differentials

If no new prescription needed, move on to Plan/Questions for the Group:

Plan *Which remedy do you think is most appropriate for this patient? Potency? Dose?*

1. Watch and Wait on Remedy / RX Remedy (Potency? Dose?)
2. Continued Supportive Care?
3. Follow-up schedule and method (phone, email, exam)?

Questions for the Group