

ALOE VERA & ANIMALS

ALOE VERA, NATURE'S STOREHOUSE

Aloe Vera for hunting dogs?

What is ALOE VERA?

The Aloe plant family includes over 300 varieties of Aloe Vera plant.

Of these, Aloe Barbadensis Miller (Aloe Miller) is the one that has most often been used in conjunction with the treatment of skin conditions and internal illnesses in both people and animals. It is considered to be the most active, medically speaking, of more than 300 Aloe varieties.

Aloe Barbadensis Miller looks like a cactus (see photo) but actually belongs to the lily family (Liliacea) and is, botanically speaking, related to the onion, garlic and asparagus.

Aloe Vera is a succulent plant with thick, juicy, succulent cactus like leaves (sword) and a water-content of 99%. Aloe Vera's structure is that of lancet shaped hard green leaves that grow outwards in a rosette shape, in such a way that fully grown leaves protect newly sprouted shoots. Leaves can grow to 60-90 cm long. Each leaf measures 7.5-10 cm in diameter at the stem and weighs between 1.5-2 kg. The plant is ready for harvesting after 3-4 years.

Aloe is grown in North and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and a number of the Pacific islands. Both cultivation and harvesting take place by hand in order to avoid damaging the leaves thus keeping the contents intact.

Aloe Vera leaves conceal the inner gel that has been used for hundreds of years to maintain and preserve health as well as to promote beauty. The written legacies of many cultures indicate that Aloe is one of mankind's oldest known healing plants. Egyptian writings from more than 3,500 years ago provide detailed instructions for the use of Aloe and Cleopatra's famous beauty milk was most probably Aloe juice. Russian folk medicine tradition calls it the "immortality" plant.

In equatorial countries, Aloe has up to today been used extensively as an external remedy. The substance alantoin in particular has prevented its internal use because it is a strong laxative and metabolism booster, and can be found in plant's rind. This is why it is inadvisable to eat the plant raw and best to obtain Aloe Vera as a quality tested, safe consumer product. Today's production and processing methods mean that these problems no longer arise.

The plant grows in warm, dry areas and was highly prized by both the Greeks and the Egyptians.

Aloe Vera and Animals

Veterinary medicine has during the last few years adopted the use of Aloe Vera to a much greater extent than human medicine, and the British vet David Urch has stated that approx. 25% of vets in Britain now use Aloe Vera in their practices.

The fact that there is a tradition of this is perhaps illustrated by the inclusion of Aloe Vera in the centuries old shield of arms of a training institute for British vets.

The use of Aloe Vera on animals largely follows the same principles utilised in the use of Aloe Vera as a support measure for humans, and the active mechanism is largely the same. The dose of Aloe Vera is determined by the weight of the animal (dog), though it is traditional to use somewhat higher doses than one would use for humans.

An increasing number of animal owners choose to give Aloe Vera as a supplement and preventative measure based on observations that indicate the Aloe Vera results in more lively animals with bright eyes and shining coats.

QUALITY and ALOE VERA

Today, there are countless suppliers of Aloe Vera products in Norway and the rest of the world for that matter. The Aloe Vera Science Council certifies those brands where they can approve the quality assuredness and seriousness of the producer. Similarly Jewish and Muslim religious communities have established councils to manage to strict quality control of foodstuffs and diet supplements.

Aloe Vera brands that have been awarded the Jewish kosher symbol or the Islamic Council's mark of approval should be safe choices.

You can contact the Aloe Vera Research Council via their web site if you have any doubts about the quality of a product.

ALOE VERA's effects and constituents

Aloe Vera has had many names because it contains so many useful vitamins and minerals and has so many ways or working vis-à-vis various conditions. Aloe Vera contains more than 200 important nutritional substances. At least 75 primary nutritional substances and more than 125 secondary ones have been identified. Of the 75 primary nutritional substances, Aloe Vera contains 20 of the 22 amino acids that are vital for life, including 7 of the 8 essential ones, that neither people nor animals are capable of producing themselves. Among others things Aloe Vera contains vitamins A, B1, B2, B3, B6, B12, C and E, choline and folic acid, and minerals/trace elements such as calcium, sodium, iron, potassium, chromium, magnesium, zinc, manganese and copper.

Structure of Aloe Vera

See illustration – diagram

1. Stomata
2. Rind – outer layer
3. Rind – inner layer
4. Palisade tissue
5. Parenchyma cells
6. Crystals of mineral salts
7. Tubules with choline
8. Transport tubules
9. The internal fruit tissue with the active gel.

Some of the names the Aloe Vera variety Aloe Barbadensis Miller has been called include: the healing plant, medicine plant, doctor root, heaven's wand, silent helper, plant of life, heaven's blessing, first aid plant and the miracle plant.

How does Aloe Vera work externally?

How does Aloe Vera work internally?

Aloe Vera has a reputation for being the best skin treatment that exists. As far as external use is concerned it is known for its healing and anti-inflammatory properties in the case of wounds, and it is superb for burns or friction sores (e.g. tender paws).

It is also a very effective diet supplement

Recent research has shown that Aloe Vera contains more than 200 active substances, including numerous amino acids, vitamins and minerals, as stated above. It strengthens general condition and there are good indications that allow us to claim that it strengthens the immune system. Furthermore, it also has a natural cleansing effect, stimulates the formation of new cells and wounds heal faster when it is used than would be the case if it were not used.

- It is a natural pain killer, bacteria killer, fungicide, anti viral agent, it breaks down dead tissue and it contains proteolytic enzymes.
- It is a natural anti-inflammatory agent because it contains plant steroids that have anti-inflammatory properties.
- It has adaptogenic effects, correcting imbalance by adapting the immune system, for example remedying both constipation and diarrhoea.
- It increases the blood flow to the skin, and counters and soothes itching.
- It contains 6 antiseptic agents and supports the work of the immune system, particularly with the aid of acemannan and other polysaccharides.

All of these areas important factors or building blocks upon which good health is maintained and illness prevented, and can also act as support therapies for other therapies or medical veterinary treatment.

Below I mention numerous areas of use where Aloe Vera can have an effect vis-à-vis various conditions, symptoms or illnesses that may affect hunting dogs.

Skin disorders:

Abscesses

Acute injuries, sores, etc

Dermatitis
Eczema (wet eczema + dry eczema)
Metabolism conditions
Dandruff
Frost injuries,
Furunculosis
Insect bites
Fungi around the claws on paws
Ringworm and other fungal infections
Sunburn,
Burns

Internal conditions such as:

Muscle and skeletal system, painful conditions including:
Inflammation conditions
Tendonitis
Myosis
Myalgia
Tendinosis
Tenovaginitis
Sprains
Breaks as well as other acute injuries and inflammations
Chronic inflammations such as muscle rheumatism
Myalgia – muscle pains
Chronic recidivist tendonitis conditions (inflammation of a tendon)

Joint pain:
Joint inflammation – arthritis
Rheumatic conditions

Heart – cardiac conditions
High blood pressure

Lymphangitis

Gum inflammations
Dental injuries

Digestive tract – stomach intestine conditions
Stomach ulcers
Stomach catarrh
Inflammation in the stomach – intestine – small intestine, large intestine (colon)

Small intestine, large intestine- irritable intestine syndrome
Obstipation– constipation

Oesophagitis (inflammation of the oesophagus)

Liver conditions, hepatitis

Pancreas
Diabetes mellitus
Pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas)

Airways and breathing organs:

The most important conditions are:

Bronchitis
Pharyngitis – throat inflammation
Colds (kennel cough)
Laryngitis
Pneumonia

Rhinitis

Urogenital system

Urethra and sexual organs

Kidney conditions could be kidney stones, these occur in both the kidneys and urinary tracts

Ureteritis

Urinary incontinence – stress and urge incontinence

Genitalia: sexual organs

Inflammations: endometritis, prostatitis, vaginitis, vulvitis

Nervous system

various conditions

Eyes and ears

Eye inflammation

Earaches

Immune system

Infections caused by, for example, bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.

Autoimmune conditions

ME, myalgic encephalomyelitis, chronic tiredness syndrome, post-viral tiredness.

Tumour – prevents, limits development as far as possible.

Prevent illness?

A large number of conditions diminish the quality of life and development of an animal, as they do in people.

In the case of many of these conditions, you can, in principle, try to influence them via the regular use of Aloe Vera, which may result in reduced symptoms, conditions and increased general well being.

The fact that Aloe Vera is safe to use, results in help for specific illnesses and involves relatively low costs vis-à-vis regular use, may be among the reasons why a increasing number animal owners are starting to adopt the “desert lily” as a supplement to sustain health and prevent illnesses and conditions arising.

Even though Aloe Vera cannot and should not replace a healthy diet and a vet’s medical treatment when it comes to developed illnesses, this traditional diet supplement is here to stay and is a support therapy and supplementary therapy when it comes to healing, health and correcting imbalances in dogs bodies, either during the course of an illness or afterwards.

FEEL FREE TO SEND YOUR QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR DOG TO THE PHYSIOTHERAPIST, AND THEY WILL BE ANSWERED IN THE NEXT EDITION OF “FUGLEHUNDEN”

**TO: FUGLEHUNDENS REDAKSJON,
HOLMENKOLLVEIEN 85, 0784 OSLO, NORWAY**

OR E-MAIL DIRECTLY TO THE PHYSIOTHERAPIST

OCCASIONALLY CURE, OFTEN SOOTHE, ALWAYS COMFORT

(Hippocrates, the father of medicine, circa 460-377 BC)

Ask about Aloe Vera, about Aloe Barbadensis Miller - it can help your hunting dog if something is wrong with it and you need an alternative support therapy in order to achieve equilibrium and balance again.

Good health with Aloe Vera!

Good hunting!

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Pubmed –med line

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People who are interested in this subject can contact me about more references for further reading or if they want further information about the Aloe Vera plant's properties and its effects with respect to various conditions.

Quotes: this article contains some quotes from the literature that have been used according to the references.

Best regards

Åse Birkhaug

Physiotherapist

Specialist