

Natural Pet Care with Flower Essences for Sight Hounds  
By Lila Devi Stone

Few things surpass an owner's joy in watching her dog, built to run as he tears across an open field, a blurred streak of light highlighted against the greenery. More often than not, people say they will do anything in caring for their pets: often more than they are willing to do for themselves.

Dog lovers and owners know firsthand what a keenly intelligent species they are. In fact the only dumb dog I have ever heard about was in a joke. Two men in neighboring boats are fishing on a small lake, one with his dog. Every time the owner catches a fish, the canine walks out on the water to retrieve it. After observing this phenomena several times, the man in the other boat calls out, "Say, do you see what your dog is doing?" The owner replies, "Oh, yeah. Dumb dog can't swim." Even this joke, in its own way, respects canine intelligence and skill.

Likewise, everyone knows the loveliness and healing power of flowers. In this age of energy medicine, growing numbers of people are learning about flower essences: herbal tinctures for strength and balance. As effective as they are for humans, animals respond even more quickly to these "bouquets in a bottle." Animals, unlike people, are not blocked by mental interferences such as doubt, skepticism, the placebo effect, and imagined results.

The ability of flower essences to correct negative behaviors applies not only to human adults and children, but to animals of all species and breeds – including whippets, borzoi, and other sight hounds. True to their philosophy, flower essences – unlike over-the-counter medications and herbal products – do not directly treat physical symptoms. Rather, they address emotional states.

In a recent chat room hosted by my publisher, I explained that animals possess a supremely rich emotional nature. One woman wrote back, "Wow! That changes my whole relationship with my pets." When we understand this truth, the potential for enriching our own relationships with our animals is limitless.

So what does this have to do with *my* dog, you ask? Well, as a loving pet owner, you already know that your dog is a veritable walking dictionary of various emotional expressions: that look of love in his eyes for you and you alone, when you walk in the door; that peaceful, lounge-lizard pose as he loafs on his favorite cushion; and his absolute thrill when mealtime is imminent. There's no holding back on feelings in the animal kingdom, whose residents live in the moment!

Equally so it is for the opposite side of the emotional coin. Dogs grieve deeply when they lose a companion; they are stung to the core by abusive treatment; and they can be confounded and confused by inconsistent training. These are all examples of

circumstances that can either lead to behavioral problems somewhere down the road, or simply create an unhappy dog.

Enter flower essences. Administered orally and/or topically, these herbal remedies provide a means of correcting behavioral problems at the root cause, allowing your dog to live the happy lifestyle he rightfully deserves with the quality of life that you want to create for him.

Directions for application are simple. Because there are so many options, you'll want to choose the method (or methods) most pleasing to your dog to make "essence time" as positive an experience as possible: four drops of Stock Concentrate to the fresh morning bowl of drinking water; several drops on your palm, stroked into his coat several times daily; applying the drops to his gums, nostrils, behind the ears, or on the paw pads, being careful not to touch the dropper. Four applications a day are all that's needed to see results within a maximum of three days.

Although every sight hound possesses a very unique and even idiosyncratic personality, there are common behavioral issues easily addressed with flower essences. In the Master's line of twenty remedies, prepared from the blossoms of fruit trees and vegetable blossoms, we find a wide array of choices for your dog's particular needs. For training in racing and lure coursing, Avocado for attention, alertness, and focus; for learning new tasks, Corn, to support the dog's natural enthusiasm and interest; for snappy behavior, Lettuce for calmness or Date if there is an element of irritability or picking on other animals; and for stubbornness, Blackberry, to "clear the air," or possibly Grape, depending upon the dog's individual temperament.

Of course, if you're looking for truly holistic canine care, you'll want to consider the following issues in the overall health and well-being of your dog in addition to flower essence therapy. In an article of this length, I won't go into the specifics here, but instead refer you to my second book, *Flower Essences for Animals* (Beyond Words Publishers).

1. the role of natural instincts
2. the influence of children and other pets in the household
3. owner-related problems
4. appropriate and consistent training
5. diet and exercise
6. the layout of the home and property
7. the presence of a loving, committed caregiver
8. possible medical causes of behavioral problems

In conclusion, an unresponsive dog is a paradox of terms. We all thrive on praise and cower at punishment. We respond to positive reinforcement and contract, in self-protection, in the face of negativity. When I am asked if flower essences really work, the answer is: as long as the dog (or human) is still alive, Yes! In the words of American writer Corey Ford, "Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend."

Lila Devi Stone, founder of the Master's Flower Essences in 1977, the oldest essence line in the US, is author of *The Essential Flower Essence Handbook* and *Flower Essences for Animals*, both texts for the internationally acclaimed MFE Formal Home Study Courses. For a free information packet, call 530-478-7655 or 800-347-3639; fax 530-478-7652; email [mfe@mastersessences.com](mailto:mfe@mastersessences.com); or visit [www.mastersessences.com](http://www.mastersessences.com).