Countless thousands of pet breeders and pet owners rely on colloidal silver as a natural antibiotic/antiviral/antifungal/antiseptic/antimicrobial to take care of a wide range of conditions and illnesses in their animals, and themselves. Scientific studies have not proven the beneficial effects of colloidal silver, and there is a lot of debate about what type is the best. The FDA has only approved it for very limited uses. But anyone can tell you that it works. Here's a colloidal silver primer...

What is it? Microscopically small silver particles, suspended in water. The resulting liquid looks and tastes like normal water, though some methods of production yield a golden or amber color to the water.

How is it made? There are a variety of methods for producing colloidal silver, resulting in a wide range of quality in the finished product. You can make it at home with some silver wires and a couple of electrodes in a jar of water. Most people prefer a more refined product, created with high-dollar, high-voltage equipment that produces particles as small as .0008 microns. Manufacturers
claim that smaller particles are better utilized in the body and therefore more effective.

How does it work? The silver surrounds a pathogen (virus, bacteria or fungi) and basically suffocates it. The silver particles have the effect of crippling the tiny organism’s ability to metabolize oxygen (breathe). The pathogen dies within 6 MINUTES of contact. Since the die-off is so fast, pathogens don't have time to mutate into resistant strains, causing the antibiotic to become ineffective. The silver particles tend to gravitate naturally to where pathogens are in the body. Typically, silver products are used for 3-7 days to treat a condition.

How long has it been around? According to Wikipedia, Hippocrates discussed the use of silver in wound care in his writings of the 4th century BC. At the beginning of the twentieth century, surgeons routinely used silver sutures to reduce the risk of infection. Colloidal silver was also being used routinely for ophthalmic problems, various infections, and sometimes internally for diseases such as tropical
sprue, epilepsy, gonorrhea, and the common cold. During World War I, soldiers used silver leaf to treat infected wounds.

Prior to the introduction of modern antibiotics, colloidal silver was widely used as a germicide and disinfectant. With the development of modern antibiotics in the 1940s, the use of silver as an antimicrobial agent diminished. Many silver-based medications and treatments are still in use, most notably for dressing wounds and burns, as this use has been approved by the FDA. It also has lots of uses in industry and home care, including swimming pool filters, water filters, food cutting boards, etc.

**How do I use it?** Colloidal silver is available as a liquid, spray, gel, cream or ointment. It also comes in various strengths, listed on the bottle as ppm, parts per million. The most common is 10 or 20 ppm. In any form, it can be taken internally or applied externally. Dosages are usually on the bottle. Long term use is not encouraged as it can lead to a buildup of silver particles in the body (see warnings below). Colloidal silver can be dabbed on, sprayed on, gargled with, added to food or drinking water, added to shampoo, used to soak toothbrush or scrub brushes, dropped into eyes or ears, wiped on toilet seats or doorknobs, used in a final laundry rinse, snorted into nostrils, taken internally or sublingually.

**Is it toxic or dangerous?** In normal usage, colloidal silver is not considered toxic to animals or humans, whether used topically or ingested. In excessive amounts, or used over an extended period of time (years) it can produce a bluish tint to the skin, which is irreversible but only cosmetic (called Argyria).
The greater danger is allergic reaction; if you have reacted in the past to silver jewelry, for example, do NOT use colloidal silver products. You can test for sensitivity by putting a small amount on the back of your hand and waiting 24 hours for a reaction.

These products may also interfere with the absorption of other antibiotics and prescription medications, thyroxine in particular.

**How do I choose a brand?** Can't help you too much here, because they all claim to be the best, and proper scientific testing has not been conducted on them. However, one type that most sources agree should be avoided is any kind of silver protein product. These are not a true colloid, and are **potentially unsafe**. You can tell very easily if the product you are looking at is a silver protein: shake it. If a soapy-looking foam forms on top and persists there after you quit shaking, protein is present.

**What can it treat?** Again, not for us to say, but here's a list from Karen at [OttawaValleyDog Whisperer.com](http://OttawaValleyDogWhisperer.com)

**A List of Ailments, Disease Conditions**  
**Successfully Treated by Use of Colloidal Silver**

Acne, Allergies, Angina, Anthrax, Appendicitis (Supportive post-operative), Arthritis, Athletes Foot, Axillae and Blind Boils of the Neck, Bladder Irritation or Inflammation, Blepharitis, Blood Poisoning, Boils, Burns or Wounds (Corneal), Cancer, Candida Albicans, Catarrh (Nasal & Nasopharyngeal), Catarrh (Spring), Cholera, Colds, Colitis, Conjunctivitis (Gonorrheal), Conjunctivitis (Phlyctenular), Cough (Whooping), Cystitis (Chronic), Dacryocystitis, Dermatitis (due to Extreme Toxemia), Diabetes, Diarrhea, Diphtheria, Dysentery (Bacillary), Ear Infections (Inner Ear), Eczema (Chronic Anterior or Meatus of the Ear), Eczema (Perineal), Eczema (Pustular of Scalp), Edematous Enlargement of Turbinates (w/o True Hyperplasia), Epididymitis, Erysipelas, Eustach Tubes, Fatigue (Chronic), Fibrositis, Furunculosis, Gastritis, Gonorrhea, Halitosis (Bad Breath), Hayfever, Hemorrhoids, Herpes or Shingles, Impetigo, Indigestion, Infantile Disease, Inflammation, Infections (Bacterial, Fungal, Parasitic or Viral), Pleurisy, Polyps (Nasal), Prostate (Enlarged or Inflamed), Prostatic Gleet (Gonorrhea Pruritis Ani, Psoriasis, Pyorrhea
Alveolaris (Riggs Disease), Quinsy, Rheumatism (Inflammatory), Rheumatoid Arthritis, Rhinitis, Ringworm, Scarlet Fever, Seborrhea, Sepsis (Ears, Eyes, Mouth and Throat), Septicemia (Puerperal), Sinusitis, Skin Rash (Diapers), Sores (Soft, Sprue, Staph or Strep Throat), Stomach Flu, Thyroid Disorders, Tonsillitis, Tonsillitis (Follicular & Septic), Tooth Decay, Toxemia (Extreme Systemic), Trachoma, Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever, Ulcers (Corneal Infected), Ulcers (Sepsis in Legs), Ulcers (Stomach), Urticaria (Ulcerative, due to Extreme Toxemia), Valsava Inflammation, Vorticella, Warts, Yeast Infections.

In Short: If you want to do things naturally, colloidal silver may be your best friend in the medicine chest. It's a superpower, it's safe, and it doesn't have to cost a fortune.

Disclaimer: This information has been provided for education purposes only. United All Breed Registry does not sell, endorse or guarantee any colloidal silver product and does not warrant the effectiveness of such products.

Links:

MAYO Clinic says “No” to colloidal silver

Dr. Oz says “Yes” to colloidal silver