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## ***Propolis for dogs.***

Few substances are as antiseptic as propolis, a sticky, resinous material also known as "bee glue," which is gathered from the buds, bark, and leaves of deciduous trees.

Bees seal cracks and holes in their hives with propolis to prevent the entrance of intruders and to disinfect or sterilize bees brushing against it.

When a mouse or other invader is stung to death in the hive, bees seal the body in propolis, preserving it while keeping the inside of the hive sanitary.

Although propolis has been used for millennia to fight infection and improve health, it is unfamiliar to most Americans.

However, it's gaining popularity as a natural antibiotic that doesn't disrupt beneficial bacteria or cause other side effects.

Propolis, which is rich in bioflavonoids, is effective against viruses, harmful bacteria, yeasts, and fungi.

It also has anti-inflammatory properties, helps prevent allergies, and speeds the healing of ulcers and skin problems such as acne, eczema, wounds, cuts, and burns.

The only down side of propolis, especially when it comes to treating dogs, is its awful taste.

Freeze-dried propolis is sold in capsules, which can be hidden in food, and small amounts of propolis tincture (liquid extract) can be placed in empty two-part gel caps, which are sold in health food stores, just before using.

Propolis tincture can help protect dogs from canine flu, kennel cough, and other infectious illnesses.

It can be applied to cuts, wounds, burns, bites, stings, hot spots, and lick granulomas (its bitter taste helps deter licking).

However, its stickiness can complicate topical application.

Mix propolis with a small amount of olive oil to create a less sticky disinfecting salve.

Mix it with honey to help heal gum disorders.