

An Ethnozoological Study of the Medicinal Animals Used by the Tagbanua Tribe in Sitio Tablay, Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan

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ABSTRACT

Ethnozoology focuses on how indigenous people utilize animals as alternative sources for medicinal and therapeutic needs. The medicinal use of animals and animal-derived product is known as zotherapy which have always played a role in the healing practice. Central Tagbanuas in Sitio Tabyay, Cabigaan, Aborlan are believed to be one of the few tribes that still uses zoo therapy in their community as a remedy for various diseases. This study evaluated the different animals used by the Tagbanuas and the manner on how they practice it. Knowledge related to therapeutic animals is required as a step towards devising strategies for sustainable use of natural resources. Qualitative research design was used in this study by employing descriptive survey method via structured questionnaires in having an in-depth interview with the Tagbanua chieftain and healer under the Key Informant Interview (KII) method. Household Interview (HHI) method was applied in interviewing household heads regarding the different manners on how they address the different diseases in their community through the utilization of different animals. There are thirteen (13) species of animals used by Tagbanuas five (5) from which, were found to be endemic in Palawan. Tagbanuas utilize animals in different specific ways for therapeutic uses and some of the diseases treated were malaria, cough, rabies, stomach pain, flatulence, ulcer, appendicitis, fever, inflammation, poisoning, kidney failure, inflammation, mumps, and fungal infection.

Keywords: Ethnozoology, Tagbanua, Zotherapy