

# Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine & Medicine4Animals – Case Study

Branding, SEO, Content Strategy, Customer Experience, E-Commerce, Case Study Writing, Customer Education



# **Case Study 'From Science to Customer'**

Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine is an excellent case study of how branding and content come together when planning Customer Experience and engaging visitors to buy.

Deborah Grant's Old Web Site



NOTE: This Case Study was prepared by Deborah Collier in 2009, to showcase Echo E-Business capabilities, as well as support learning and enablement of clients and web site visitors (A key focus of Echo E-Business). Consulting, branding, content strategy, site architecture were all managed by Deborah Collier, down to the fine details. Design and web development was completed by Echo E-Business' development and design network, using detailed requirements, wireframes, brand colours and other specifications provided by Deborah Collier. E-Commerce consulting and implementation management was also completed by Deborah Collier.

#### The New Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine Site



# **The Challenge**

## Deborah's old web site was receiving traffic but converting a small number of sales.

The site content focused around her as an individual with well-written articles, and a basic online store. We identified several issues: -

- Lack of sales through web site
- · User publishing tools not user-friendly
- Design was at a very basic level
- Content was not implemented effectively lengthy or technically worded
- Google Adwords costly Search Engine optimisation needed improving
- Branding focused on Deborah Grant as an individual
- Web Site did not install trust in potential buyers

## Our objectives were to

- Increase online sales, patient bookings and reputation
- Develop a strategy for web site domains to enhance search engine ranking
- Allow Deborah to publish and maintain her products and articles easily and effectively
- · Provide adequate metrics reporting
- Allow for future enhancements and product ranges
- Search Engine Optimised Site and Content
- Leverage social media opportunities using capabilities such as RSS Feeds
- Allow for Deborah to introduce herbal medicine products for pets, without giving visitors believing that she practises herbal medicine on pets

#### We developed a new online strategy for Deborah Grant focused on her customers

We worked with Deborah Grant to clearly define her brand values, identity, customers, products and services.

- Medical Consultations for people
- Herbal Medicines and Supplements for Humans
- Herbal Medicines for Dogs and Cats (but no consultations)



## A Word from Deborah Grant

"From the very start, Echo E-Business made it their business to understand my business. E-Business Strategist Deborah Collier explained her vision for my website so clearly and took into account all my wishes. Her plans and strategy were spot on and she knew what visitors would be looking for, how to captivate them and how to make them respond in a positive way. Echo E-Business understand the psychology of online selling and this was a huge bonus. Deborah spoke with passion about creating a website, which would benefit my business, and she held her vision throughout and delivered stunning results. She knew exactly how to optimise the sites for sales. I can honestly say that my needs have been met 110%. Deborah is a perfectionist in her work so I didn't have to worry about anything because I instinctively knew that she would give me the best websites possible and she did". Deborah Grant Medical Herbalist

<u>www.herbalist-medicine.com</u> - Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine <u>www.medicine4animals.com</u> - Herbal Medicines for Pets





# **Branding**

Focusing branding around Deborah's audience, we broke down Deborah's customers into 3 top-level audiences - humans, dog owners and cat owners. We recommended two brands with the ability to cross-sell between the two, without confusing the audiences.

- A brand for humans seeking medical care and supplements
- A brand for pet owners seeking solutions to animal health issues

Echo E-Business considered brand names, audience and came up with a suitable brand name and domain name strategy – one that would consider existing inbound links to the old Deborah Grant site, and leveraged search engine optimisation opportunities.

#### deborahgrant.co.uk

- The existing domain name
- o Easy to remember
- No herbal medicine related keywords in domain name were poor for SEO
- We decided to leverage the existing search engine ranking and brand name, and link it to a press page on the new web site

#### herbalist-medicine.com (.co.uk, and .net)

- The most suitable after comparing numerous available opportunities
- Reasonably easy to remember
- Contains valuable search engine keywords
- Hyphens help the search engines separate words
- Reflects both products and services
- Makes sense to Deborah's customers
- Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine would be the new brand name
- We advised Deborah to convert Deborah Grant to a limited company called Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine

#### **Protecting Deborah's Brand**

Deborah was approached by an unscrupulous organisation planning to acquire **herbalistmedicine.com**, .net and co.uk domains, and then sell them on to her at an extortionate rate. Through timely expert advice, Deborah was able to acquire these domains at the standard fee, with a regular hosting company that we recommended. This saved her thousands of pounds.

She was able to purchase herbalistmedicine.com, .net and .co.uk which were not only valuable, but protected her domain brand name. We then leveraged these domains, by redirecting them to her new web site on herbalist-medicine.com.

#### The Pet Medicine Brand

The focus of Deborah's pet medicine brand is to sell herbal medicine products for pets. As a pure online business, we advised that a web site address matching her brand name would be most beneficial and sought out appropriate names that leveraged appropriate search engine keywords. Unfortunately, we discovered a lack of available names that would be catchy and memorable. After assessing a number of domains as brand names, we finally came up with **Medicine4Animals**.

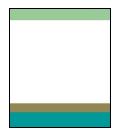
## The key benefits are:

- Domain name availability .com, .co.uk and .net
- Contained two valuable keywords 'Medicine' and 'Animals'
  - Not specifically pet focused
  - o Could attract a wider audience such as farm owners or vets, not just dog and cat owners.
  - o Future proof allowing for the expansion of Deborah Grants product range



## **Design and Colours**

We carefully selected colour palettes for both brands that would reflect the values of the Deborah Grant brands and appeal to Deborah's audience.



#### **Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine**

- Cutting-Edge/21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Caring and Calming
- Quality
- Health and Well-Being



#### **Medicine4Animals**

- Herbal Medicine
- Animals
- Quality
- Health and Well-Being



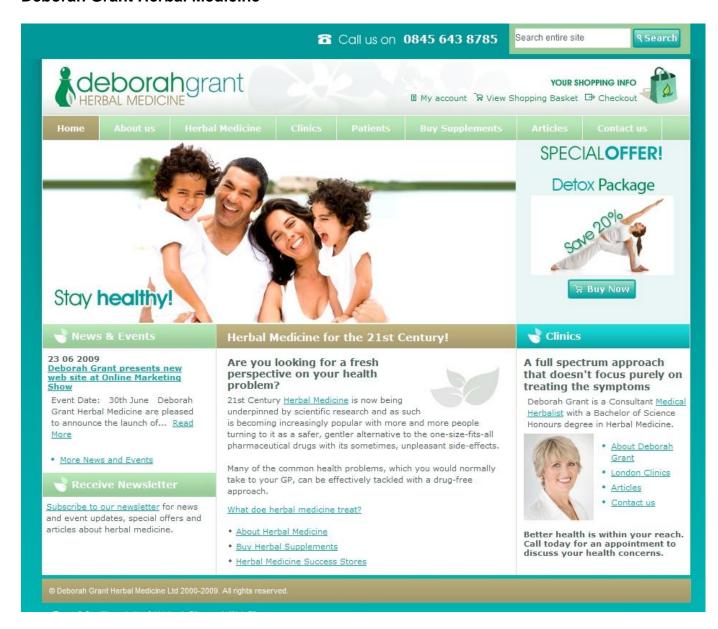








#### **Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine**



For the Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine brand, our aim was to convey quality, modern 21<sup>st</sup> century and focus on the issues and benefits rather than the herbs themselves.

#### Medicine4Animals



For the Pet Brand our aim was to appeal to animal lovers and demonstrate healthy pets without being kitsch or "cutesy"

#### **The Content and Customer Experience**

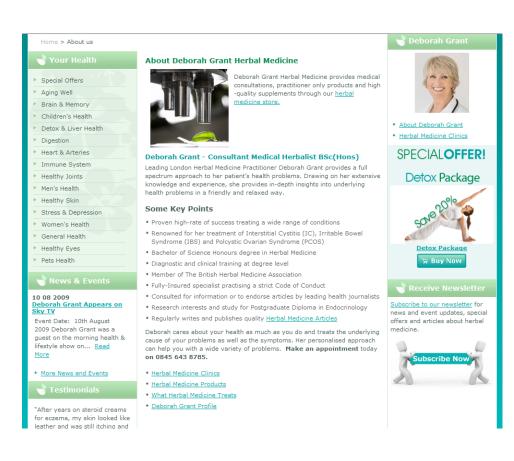
Echo E-Business provided one-to-one web writing training and worked with Deborah Grant to effectively prepare content for the web. The training included best-practice content presentation, writing search engine optimised content and custom key selling phrases for her business. We worked closely with Deborah, providing search engine keywords, descriptions and titles, as well as carefully architected page layouts.

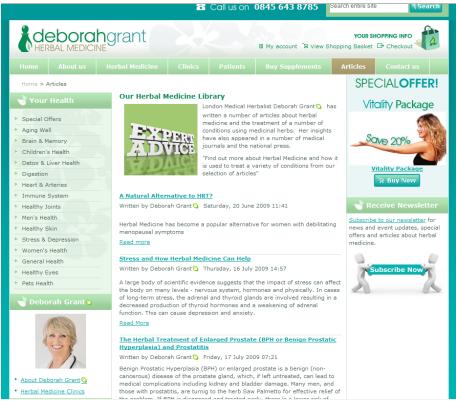
We wanted to create a brand that was something like a Gucci of Herbal Medicine – A quality trusted brand rather than an individual. This would install trust in Deborah's patients to buy her products and book her clinics. Further to the launch of the new Deborah Grant web site, Deborah advised us that new patients are more confident in the products and services she provides, without any need for reassurance. The new web site enhanced Deborah's reputation and made her content more visible and engaging.



## The Homepage

- Engaging image
- Teasers on the homepage lead customers into the site
- Deborah Grant photo engages audience
  - We advised Deborah that a new professional portrait photo was essential, and referred her to a reputable photographer.
  - Strategically positioned to entice visitors to read more about Deborah's clinics and consultations.
    - These are highest value offering





# **About Us Page**

- Demonstrates credibility
- A warm photograph of the practitioner
- · Content reflects back to the customer
  - o Testimonials
- Considers where visitor may wish to go next
  - Links
  - News and events feed

## **Articles Page**

- Deborah's articles branded as the 'Herbal Medicine Library'
- Entices visitors with a graphic 'Expert Advice' to enforce high value of article content
- Previous Deborah Grant web site articles located on single long page.
- Created a facility whereby each article title along with teaser text, allows visitors to click on the article
- As the library grows the site Content Management System can be tweaked to categorise the articles

#### Sample Article - Lengthy

Home > Articles > A natural alternative to HRT?



- Special Offers
- Aging Well
- ▶ Brain & Memory
- Children's Health
- Detox & Liver Health
- Digestion
- Heart & Arteries
- Immune System
- ► Healthy Joints
- ► Men's Health
- ▶ Healthy Skin
- Stress & Depression
- ▶ Women's Health
- ▶ General Health
- ► Healthy Eyes
- ▶ Pets Health





- · About Deborah Grant @
- Herbal Medicine Clinics
- Herbal Medicine Supplements

#### A Natural Alternative to HRT?

Herbal Medicine has become a popular alternative for women with debilitating menopausal symptoms

Herbal Medicine has become a popular alternative for women with

debilitating menopausal symptoms, particularly in the light of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study of 2002, which suggested that health risks may exceed benefits during prolonged hormone replacement therapy (HRT). The effect of the initial publications of the WHI resulted in a decline in HRT use of around 50% in the UK. Medical Herbalist Deborah Grant BSC (Hons) MNIMH reports...



Recent research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA, one of the world's foremost medical research centres, states that "the study of alternative therapies for menopause symptoms is a rewarding and important area deserving of further inquiry". The NHS is also listing several herbs in their leaflet on alternative therapies for the treatment of menopausal symptoms.

As a qualified Medical Herbalist with diagnostic and clinical training at a degree level and degree level training in medicinal plant chemistry (phytochemistry), I have successfully treated many women, who come to me for help in alleviating uncomfortable and debilitating menopausal symptoms. I have found that in most cases it is easy to get significant results in a relatively short period of time. Most patients are feeling considerably better by the time of their first follow-up consultation, which is usually two weeks after the initial consultation.

Download Full Article and Case Study (PDF 145KB)

Article: Deborah Grant November 2008, Published in the Family Health Guide

**Further information** 

What does Herbal Medicine Treat?

What Herbs Are Used To Treat Menopausal Symptoms?

Herbal Medicine Clinic

More Articles





<u>Subscribe to our newsletter</u> for news and event updates, special offers and articles about herbal

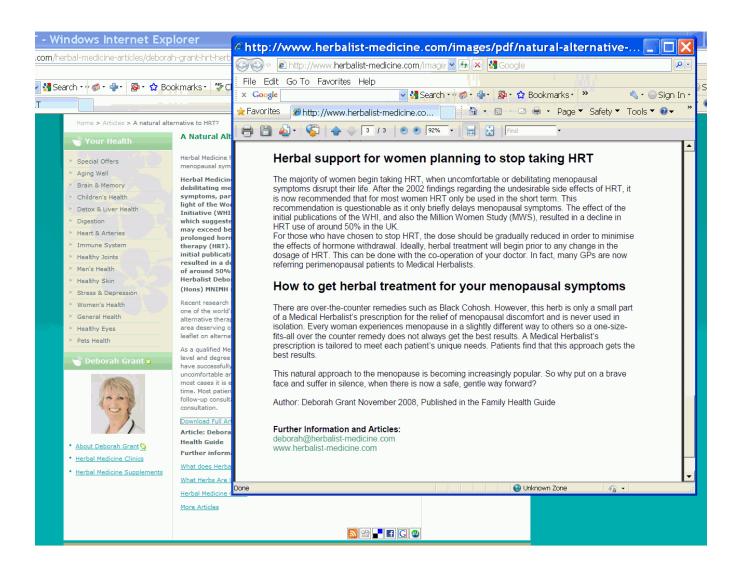
medicine.



#### Testimonials

"On the initial consultation, I felt as if someone was at last listening to what I had to say, taking me seriously and genuinely wanting to help me." - Linda, Ilford

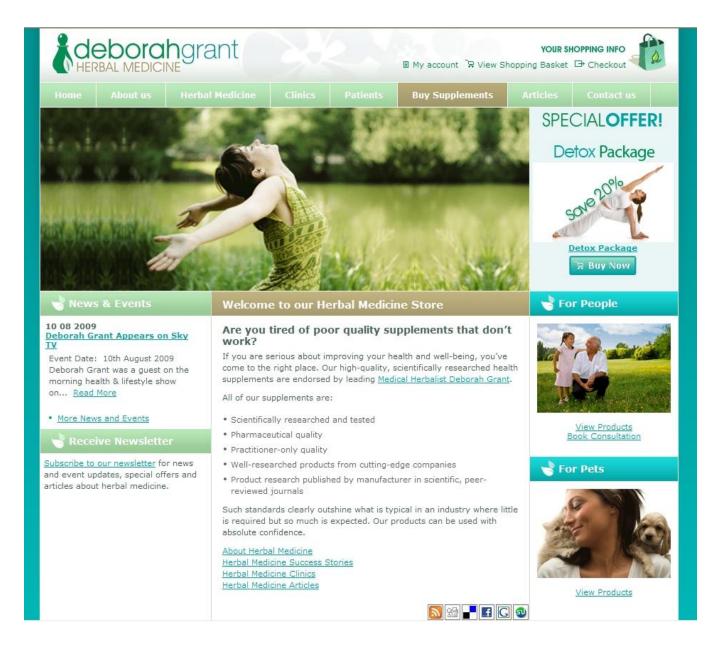
- Posted first few paragraphs on the web page itself.
- Created PDF article template for Deborah.
- Posted whole article within an easily accessible Adobe PDF file, which we tagged for the search engines.
- Placed call-to-action and relevant links useful to reader at end of article
- Placed an RSS and social media bar at the bottom to allow visitors to interact with web content, bookmark and add to applications such as Facebook.
- Article name appears in the clickpath at the top left, so that reader can click back to the articles section.
- 'Your Health' section takes visitor to health categories with an overview and links to suitable herbal medicines and supplements.
- Detox package is strategically positioned on the web page to support selling. The Newsletter subscription also placed in a strong call-to-action position.



#### **Downloadable PDF Article**

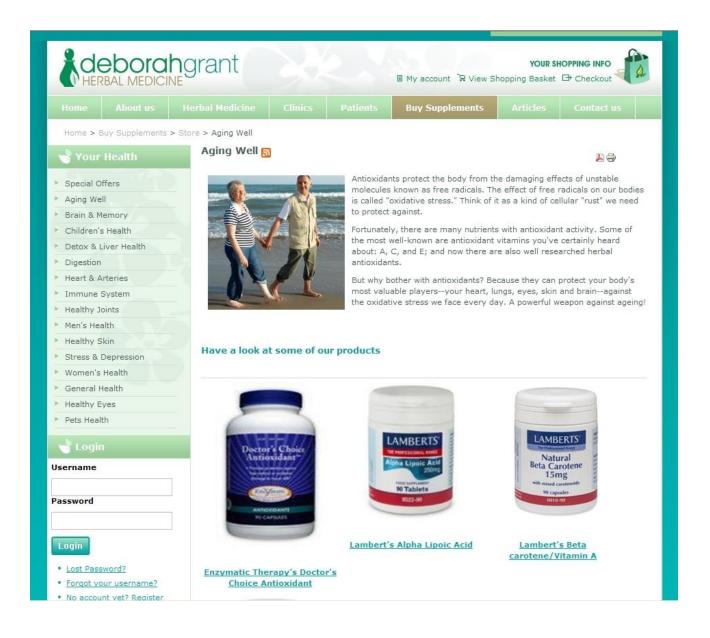
- Great for the Search Engines
- Portable and Printable
- Easy to read
- Tangible product feels valuable

## The Herbal Medicine Store – Buy Supplements



- Homepage feel for the online store, appeals to visitors landing on this page.
- Focus on engaging visitors to browse products in the store.
- Content in two sections 'For People' and 'For Pets', appeals to two different types of audiences, but also cross-sells to consultations for patients.
- Ideal place to cross-sell pet products without confusing visitors seeking medical help for people.
- 'For People' photo demonstrates patients both young and old.
- 'For Pets' photo, echoes the homepage photo on the Medicine4Animals web site
- Main photo engaging and demonstrates well-being.

## **Product Categories**

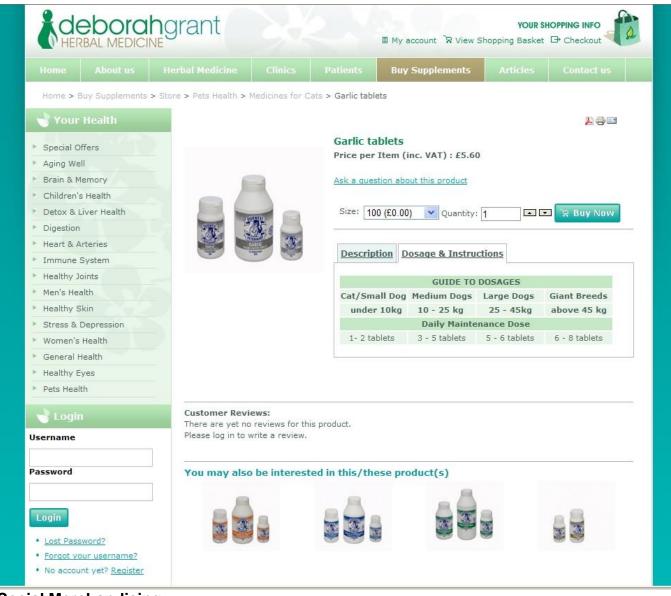


After assessing Deborah's old web site, and additional products for the new web site, we advised her on how to break down her categories into sub-categories that were meaningful to her customers.

Visitors have a choice to use the navigation or search from the top of the page for a specific health problem or product.

We changed the category titles to more engaging ones – e.g. from 'Skin Health' to 'Healthy Skin', and coached Deborah through breaking down her category content.

## **Product Pages**



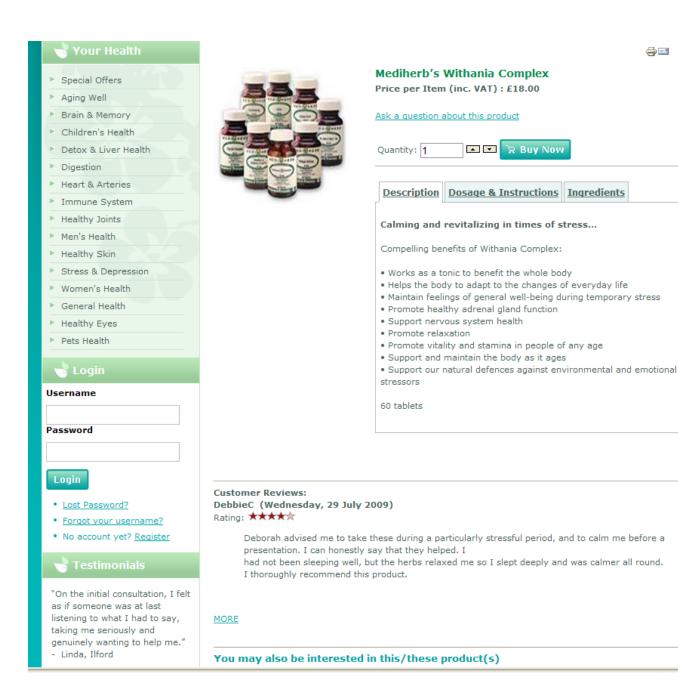
**Social Merchandising** 

Deborah Grant's original web site had long and often technical descriptions, which did not always engage every customer.

Although Deborah did gain clients through her old site, she was missing opportunities to market to a less knowledgeable audience.

Her products were merchandised using technical language that would appeal to more to doctors and the scientifically minded. We worked with Deborah to implement the following:

- Make content idiot-proof, without technical language or acronyms
- Write shorter and punchier content
- Links to articles for further description
- Break content down into common themes
  - Description
  - Ingredients (on products for humans)
  - Dosage



One of Deborah's key concerns was about non-believers who did not understand the proven scientific properties of quality herbal medicine products. (Particularly as there are so many bad ones on the market).

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We worked with web site developers to incorporate a testimonials and ratings facility to enable customer interaction and advocacy.

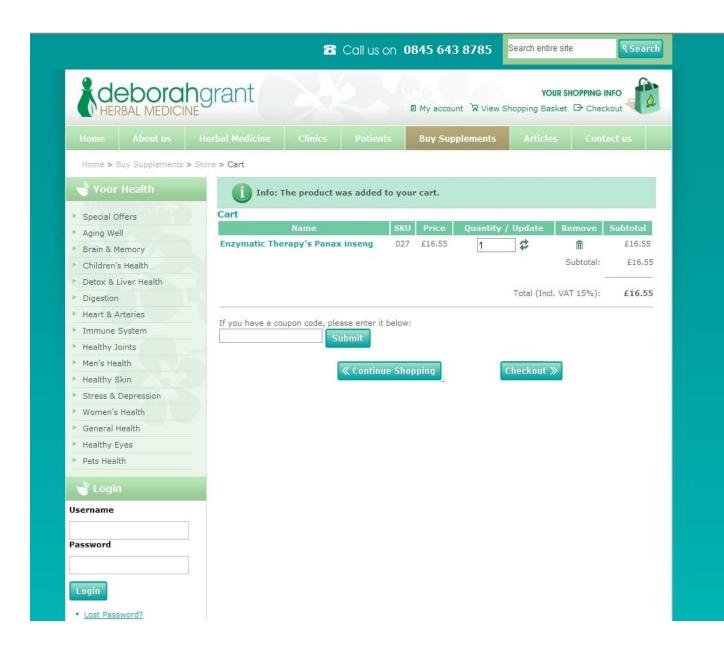
#### **More Social Media Facilities**

On the both the Medicine4Animals and Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine, we have implemented social media facilities in the form of a bar at the bottom of each page. Visitors can feed headlines into widgets, news feeds and web sites.

- Allows customer or visitors to interact with content
- Viral Marketing
- Increase in traffic

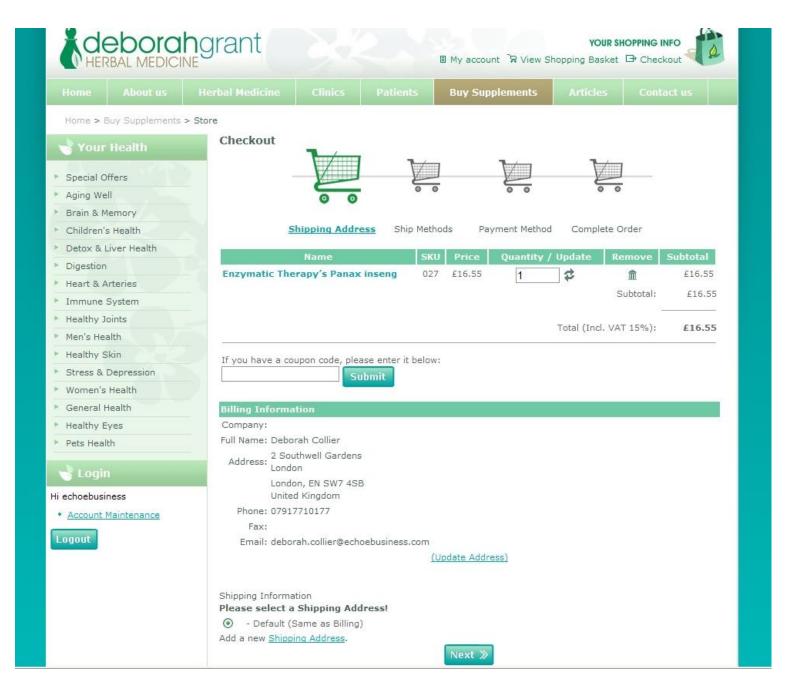


## **The Buying and Checkout Process**



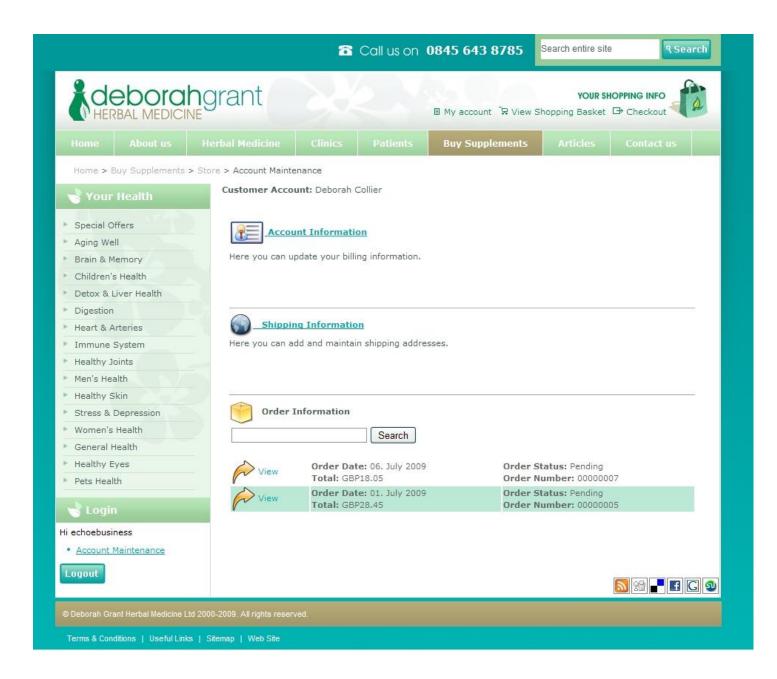
A buyer can add, update and remove products to their cart easily, as well as use discount vouchers

They can continue browsing and easily come back to their basket and checkout later.



The checkout process if very simple and easy to follow.

The shopping trolley changes size and colour depending on what stage you are in the buying process.



As each user creates an account, they can update and reuse their shipping and billing address.

If they have abandoned an order, they come back and pay for it again later.

If the customer services team, notices an abandoned order, they can call the customer and help them through the buying process, even taking credit card details over the phone.

The current payment card processing solution, which was inherited from the old e-commerce site is Paypal. This has been integrated, with the ability to change or add a new payment solution provider in the future.

## How does Deborah Grant feel about her new herbal medicine web site?



"My Herbalist Medicine website has a feel of professional, yet relaxed and friendly patient care, which is what I am about. It also has a great shop, which has more clever selling features than I had envisaged. The site is also clean and fresh looking. It has portrayed my business perfectly and I am thrilled with it.

My expectations were exceeded and I highly recommend Deborah Collier because she truly wants what is best for your business and is a pleasure to work with". **Deborah Grant Medical Herbalist** 

#### The Medicine4Animals Web Site



- Carefully selected engaging image on homepage to provoke emotion in both dog and cat owners.
- 'Special Offer' strategically positioned for maximum online sales.
- Personalisation in its simplest form – Content personalised for Dog and Cat owners (or those interested in treating dogs and cats).
- Thought-provoking title questions used to engage the visitor.
- Silhouette symbols used for the animals rather than cartoons creates a more credible feel.
- Links to buy or call customer services, appear on every page at the top.
- Carefully architected navigation and content with one simple navigation at the top.



In the same manner as the 'Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine site' we have created a homepage feel for the 'Online Store' intro page.

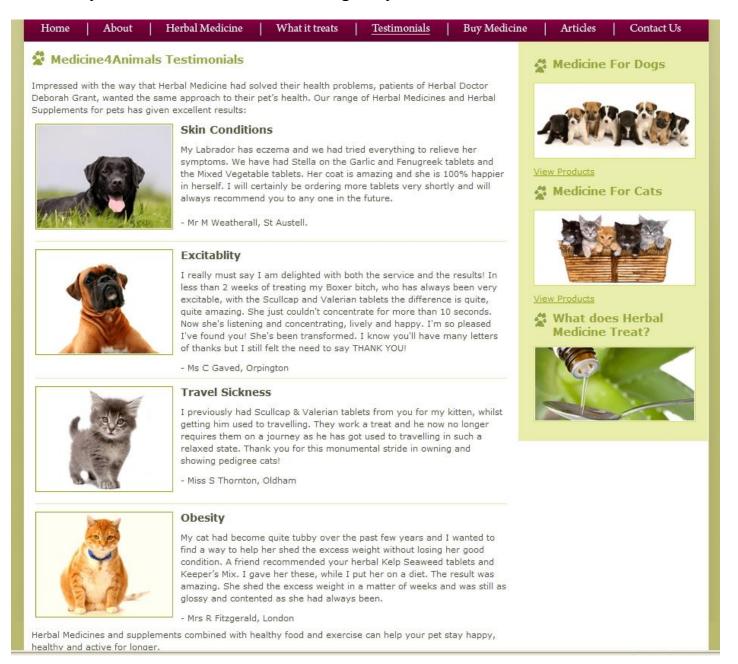
A high-quality engaging photo of a happy healthy pet and owner was used rather than herbs.

We've presented content for the two audiences – cat owners and dog owners.

No search facility was required on this small starter web site.

Content and information related to pets is housed on this web site, but link to a product section for pets on the Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine site. This lowered costs of having two stores, and supports cross-selling.

## **Case Study Based Testimonials to Encourage Buyers**



To support product and brand credibility, case study testimonials have been employed. We chose images to fit the testimonials.

## How does Deborah Grant feel about her Medicine4Animals web site?



"Medicine4Animals is very attractive to pet owners. It is very captivating with its pet images but at the same time clean and fresh. It leads the buyer through the site to the point of purchase and is easy on the eye. I had seen some sites that throw too much information at you, which are not comfortable on the eye and lead to confusion. Echo E-Business have ensured that my customers have a very pleasant experience and will want to buy". Deborah Grant Medical Herbalist

# **Internet Marketing and Training**

As well as **online strategy development**, **digital branding** and web development we delivered some essential combined training and internet marketing services to Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine:-

- Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) and Publisher SEO Training
- Web Writing Best Practice Training
- Social Media Marketing Plan and Training
- Email Marketing Template and Best-Practice Email Marketing Training

## Key Benefits - Within one month of launch

- We were able to maintain the existing search engine ranking for key phrase 'Medical Herbalist London'.
- Deborah's site appears on the first page for search term 'herbalist medicine'.
- Deborah gained 2 new patients within 24 hours of launch.
- Deborah informed us that as a result of the web site, her clients were noticeably more confident in credible herbal medicine.
- Further to the press promotion around the web site launch, Deborah was invited to appear on Sky TV.
- Deborah advised us that her clients were experiencing an improved ordering process and that she was able to refer her patients to purchase on the new web site successfully.
- Deborah is able to maintain her online store, and publish her own optimised web content.
- Deborah is able to edit her newsletter template and send her own newsletter, avoiding the common pitfalls.

#### **Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine Newsletter**



# Newsletter August 2009



About Us Herbal Medicine

Clinics Success Stories

Buy Supplements

Medical Herbalist

**Boost the Immune System** 

Dear Deborah

Chink in your Armour? A Scientifically Proven Way to

Apparently, the average sneeze produces around 40,000 infectious

Bearing this in mind, it's little wonder that people are trying to find a way

to avoid catching colds, flu and other infections, which seem to abound

at this time of year. Unfortunately, we often find ourselves sitting in close

droplets, which are spread at a speed of around 135ft per second.

proximity to someone in the train, who has a streaming cold and is

sneezing the virus into the carriage. Read More

Welcome to my new newsletter. The look and feel matches our new and improved Deborah Grant web site and Online store. It also features products from our new Medicine4Animals brand, which was created as a result of satisfied patients asking me for help with their pet's health.

#### Patient Feedback

"On the initial consultation. I felt as if someone was at last listening to what I had to say. taking me seriously and genuinely wanting to help me." - Linda, Ilford

More Testimonials Our Clinics

# SPECIALOFFER!

**Detox Package** 



#### Insights

Stress and How Herbal Medicine Can Help Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) More Articles

#### **News & Event Highlights**

29th July 2009 Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine are pleased to announce the launch of two new websites. Read More

#### **Pets Corner**



Read About Herbal Medicine for Cats and

#### **Featured Products**



Mediherb's Withania



ReCall Vitamins and Minerals Complex





Anti-Max Immune Support Supplement

## Deborah Grant Medical Herbalist Consultations Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine **Products**

designed to promote 3 product and service

The Deborah Grant newsletter was

Deborah Grant – Medicine4Animals products

## Key Points: -

streams -

- Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine Branding and Design
- Content sections strategically placed for maximum impact
- Best-practice newsletter is designed to avoid the spam filters
- Deborah Grant is able to edit her article content, links and products herself
- Deborah is able to monitor and measure the effectiveness of her email marketing, such as open, clickthrough and unsubscribe rates

# How does Deborah feel about the training, advice and overall service from Echo E-Business?



**Deborah Grant Medical Herbalist** 

## **Advice and Training**

"Echo E-Business Consultant Deborah Collier always gave me sound advice and explained to me what best practice is and that made complete sense. I always felt she wanted the best for my business, which was very reassuring'.

"Deborah gave me one-to-one training on Best-practice Web Writing and SEO. This enabled me to SEO my content in a simple, step-by-step way. She taught me how to write for the web, breaking down content and giving readers nuggets, enticing them to read more. It was an interesting learning process, which gave me the confidence to edit and add to my sites, both articles and products. I was also given an invaluable list of key selling phrases pertaining to my business. I was taught how to merchandise products in the best possible way and, during the coaching sessions, Deborah was great at explaining everything very clearly until I grasped it".

#### **Service from Echo E-Business**

"My working relationship with Echo E-Business has been very enjoyable. Deborah Collier is easy to work with and has a very happy and positive disposition. She always found the time to regularly keep me informed of progress and to make sure that I was completely happy with the look of the sites as they were developed. Nothing was too much trouble for her".

The service I received from Echo E-Business was excellent in every way. Deborah Collier is in a class of her own and cannot be recommended highly enough."

## **Summary**

We hope the Deborah Grant Case Study has been a helpful as a learning tool or as a way of getting to know either Deborah Grant Herbal Medicine or Echo E-Business a little better.

When it comes to building an online presence, every strategy is unique and each implementation is creative. If you have any further questions about this project or would like help with your online presence, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please find below our contact details

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UK Enquires: 0845 838 4869 International: +44 208 123 6357

Main Contact: Deborah Collier - Managing Director and Chief Strategist

Web: www.echoebusiness.com



#### END OF ECHO E-BUSINESS CASE STUDY

#### **Deborah Collier**

If you are interested in hiring Deborah Collier as Chief Marketing Officer, Interim Marketing or Digital Business Director for your organisation, please contact her via her web site at <a href="https://www.deborahcollier.com">www.deborahcollier.com</a>

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