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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for both small and large animals
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- X-ray & Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition & Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

Grass Tetany

The spring flush of grass is here and it is late autumn early winter and the grass is growing out of the ground like never before and suddenly we are getting cows like the one in the picture. Magnesium levels are extremely low and so we are getting very flat cows that are suddenly very close to death.

You will need to treat these cows with IV 4 in 1 and a magnesium sulphate sachet under the skin. Allow this to work for 15 to 30 minutes then try to bring the cow into a sit position and support her. Then leave her alone! If you stimulate her too much it will bring on tetanic attacks and then death is around the corner.

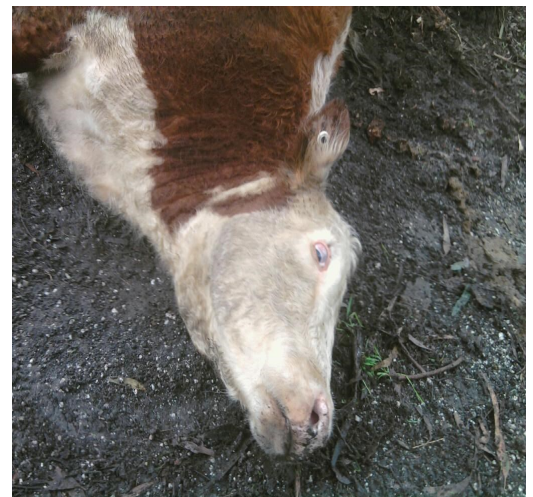
Prevention is better than treatment.

The big question is how to get magnesium into the cow. This is as simple as putting magnesium into the bail feed. For cattle that are not being fed in the bail you can put 40—60gm per cow per day of magnesium sulphate mix into 4 to 10 litres of molasses and pour this mixture over the hay.

Other alternatives include dusting the paddock with AL4 Causmag if you strip graze or putting mag sulphate into the water. This tends to make the water bitter and not all cows will drink it

Grass tetany blocks can be put out but tend not to be useful in a herd situation. They are better with younger animals on out blocks.

In extreme cases the use of mag capsules may be a choice but handling a large number of cattle while putting the capsule down their throats is not the most desired job in the world!



Simpson Office:

Our Simpson Office is open
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10am to 3pm
P: 03 5594 3257
F: 03 5594 3339

Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon

We are available 24/7 for emergencies.

Our emergency number is:

5232 2111

Worms

The common types of worms are Roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms, whipworms and heart worms. Some live in the intestine and some live in the tissue. Some worms are well tolerated in small numbers but in high numbers can cause serious problems. Apart from heart worm they all have "Zoonotic potential" - that means they can spread to humans. Eggs may be ingested by humans or some such as hookworm can migrate through the skin of humans.



Roundworm is extremely common and quite unavoidable in puppies and kittens. They will pick these up both during the pregnancy and from the milk of their mother. Adult worms look like cooked spaghetti and live in the intestine. They can reach up to 20cm in length and feed off the food in the intestine. Roundworms shed eggs continually. Roundworm larvae migrate through the blood into the lungs, are coughed up and usually re-swallowed. Sometimes larvae can travel through the liver and the brain. In young puppies untreated roundworms can cause the bowel to rupture.

Dogs and cats should be discouraged from defecating where kids play, as roundworms are especially dangerous to children. Roundworm eggs can lie dormant for years in a sandpit for instance. Once they enter the child host they can migrate to the child's liver, lungs, eyes or brain and become permanently encysted. Unfortunately in some disadvantaged areas roundworms are still a common, preventable cause of blindness in children.

Like roundworms, people can also get Tapeworms. This may be from ingesting a flea or from ingesting the tapeworm eggs. The tapeworm consists of many white segments joined together like a tape. They can be up to a metre long. The segments drop off to multiply and contain the eggs which look like grains of rice. Pets pick up tapeworms by eating an intermediate host such as a flea, mice, birds or from scavenging carcasses. People can get the serious disease hydatidosis from ingesting tapeworm eggs. Handling dogs then eating without washing hands and allowing dogs to scavenge are the most risky behaviours.



Whipworm occasionally causes diarrhoea even in adult pets. They are hard to see, like thin pieces of cotton. Transmission to humans is rare.

Hookworm looks like roundworm but has teeth on one end that grab onto the pet's intestine and is a blood sucking worm. The pet experiences blood loss from the sucking of the parasite and bleeding of the bowel where the hookworm was attached. Puppies can acquire the worms through sucking their mother and they can cause a serious anaemia. If your pet has hookworm, you can get it indirectly. **You won't get it from petting your dog or cat.** The eggs are passed in your pet's stool and hatch into larvae. The eggs and larvae are found in the dirt where your pet leaves stool. You can get a hookworm infection by touching contaminated dirt with your bare hands or feet. You can also get it by accidentally eating contaminated soil.

Treatment of worms is simple but needs to be done regularly with effective products and for the correct weight of animal. Some of the spot on worming treatments are not 100% for tapeworm so you will still need to use oral treatments some of the time. Puppies and kittens need worming starting at 2 weeks old then every 2 weeks until 3 months old. Worming the mother during pregnancy and after birth will minimise spread to the babies. Adults are usually wormed every 3 months but those that are hunting or scavenging are at high risk and need to be more often. Remember your rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs and birds also need regular worming.

If you have trouble administering a tablet then please let us know and we'll help out. If you are not sure what your pet weighs then feel free to drop in for a free weight check.

Footy Update after Rnd 15...

Shannon has made his way clear on top, but he has several people sitting very closely behind! Pressure is on for him to hold his position!

1.	Shannon	92	6.	Peter D	85
2.	Scott W	90	7.	Colin	85
3.	Tom	87	8.	Cindy	84
4.	Nathan	87	9.	Alan	84
5.	Josh	85	10.	Tigga	83