

**November  
2014**

# Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 4  
Issue 11**

**Newsletter**

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## Preventing Snakebite

Unfortunately, it's snake season again! Every year we have many cats and dogs brought in for treatment after snake bite. The lucky ones survive. At the beginning of the season the venom is very potent, even from small / immature snakes.

There are a few tips for avoiding snake bite in pets:

Clean up around the house, keep up with mowing and whipper snipper

Tidy up snake havens like wood piles

Have a "snake water" away from the house and pets - so they don't need to come to the house looking for water

Keep pets supervised as much as possible on hot days.

Don't take your dog out walking in the heat, especially avoid around dams / water.

Keep up with mice and rat control. Baits can be left safely in heavy duty bait stations.

Dogs usually show symptoms within ten minutes. They often vomit then become progressively more unsteady on their feet. Dogs usually require intravenous treatment with anti-venene and several days hospitalisation. In some cases symptoms may not show up for several hours depending on where they have been bitten and the dose of venom.

Cats often don't show symptoms for up to 24 hours later. They are surprisingly resilient. Owners will notice the cat seems a bit floppy or has a strange meow. Most cats will have dilated (large) pupils. Most cats will survive without anti-venene but need supportive intravenous drip and hospitalisation for several days.

Please be aware that there are no effective "home remedies" such as Vitamin C, for snake bite.

**Rapid Veterinary attention is essential to give the best chance for survival.**



### We provide:

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

**Simpson Office:**

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

**Colac Office:**

Our Colac Office is open  
Monday to Friday  
8am to 6pm  
Saturday 9am to 12 noon  
[www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au](http://www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au)

**We are available 24/7  
for emergencies.  
Our emergency number  
is:  
5232 2111**

# Eye Cancer in Cattle

The tumour begins as a tiny growth, or precursor lesion, and up to half of these may develop into cancer. The precursor lesion can be a plaque (a slightly flat opaque area), a papilloma (a wart like growth on the eye ball), a keratoma (a horny growth on the eyelid) or a small ulcer on the eyelid.

As the disease progresses from the precursor stage to the cancer stage, the eye becomes ulcerated. Bacteria and flies invade the area, which can develop into a festering, foul smelling growth.

The cancerous tissue also grows inwards, invading the deeper tissues around and behind the eye. It can progress to the lymph nodes of the head and then to body organs such as the lungs and liver.

Some early cases of eye cancer or precursor lesions can be treated by veterinary intervention either surgically or by cryosurgery (freezing). As eye cancer may recur in treated animals it is not advisable to keep these animals beyond their current lactation.

It is illegal to put cattle with malignant tumours of the eye, larger than 2cm in Victorian saleyards. It is also illegal to bring these cattle into Victoria without a licence.

The **recommended method** of disposal of cattle with small eye cancers is direct to an abattoir.



However, cattle with early stage eye cancers up to the size of a 5 cent coin (2 cm) that are not bleeding or discharging, as shown, may be put in saleyard and sold for slaughter.

Cattle with eye cancers between the size of a 5 cent coin (2cm) and a 20 cent coin (3cm), that are not bleeding or discharging, may go direct to an abattoir at owner's risk of non payment.



Eye cancers larger than 3cm, or involving the whole of the eye, or with significant swelling around the eye and/or flyblown, and/or weeping, must be treated or destroyed humanely on farm. These larger cancers must not go in or near a saleyard or abattoir as they may attract charges of animal cruelty



***Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, owners may face cruelty charges if they allow eye cancers to grow too large. In all cases, early detection and treatment or disposal is necessary. As cancer is also a notifiable disease, owners should seek veterinary advice when in doubt.***

(DEPI Note AG0073)

**Please note:**

**Our email address has changed. We can now be contacted on:**

**[info@rhodesvet.com.au](mailto:info@rhodesvet.com.au)**