



**March
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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

Choosing A New Pet

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Make sure the breed and type of pet is suitable for your situation. If you are not sure then please ask. Working dog breeds often don't cope well in town as they have a need for lots of exercise and stimulation and require excellent fencing.

Check on the worming and vaccination status of the pet. Young kittens and pups need worming every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age. Even rabbits, guinea pigs, birds and other small pets also need regular worming.

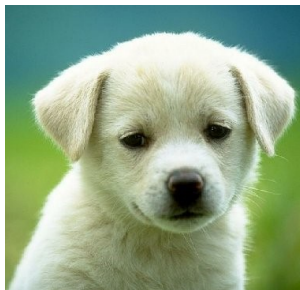
If the pet is already microchipped, then make sure it is transferred into your name. Otherwise ensure you microchip your new pet ASAP. The cost of this is \$40 and this includes lifetime microchip registration. Your pet must be microchipped to be registered with your local council.

Make sure your new pet is healthy, lively, active and in good body condition with a shiny coat. For cats, be sure that there are no signs of cat flu such as runny eyes or sneezing

Think about adopting from a shelter where the pets have already been vet checked, wormed, vaccinated and are often already desexed.



Bring your new pet for a check-up as soon as practical. We can offer you good advice on feeding, worming and vaccinations and check them for any defects.



REMEMBER: A pet is a LONG TERM commitment financially and emotionally. Budget for day to day costs, vaccinations, worming, flea control, council registration, desexing, boarding fees and be prepared for unplanned veterinary expenses. Many owners now have pet insurance to cover those unexpected costs.



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

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

Blue - Green Algae

Blue-green algal blooms typically appear as surface scum, ranging from pale green to dark brown in colour. An “earthy” smell is common in comparison to other algal blooms that will often appear as green mats.

Blooms usually occur when the combination of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), light and temperature are optimal for development . They are spread from dam to dam by carriers (eg ducks) and the spores of the algae can live in the mud on the bottom of a dam for many years.

Unfortunately this means if you have experienced a blue-green algae problem on a dam you may well experience it again down the track.

When the algae begin to die, turning a scummy blue colour they release toxins into the water and these can vary in potency. Thus the volume of water that stock need to consume before they are affected varies. Affected animals will develop tremors and a staggy gait, become recumbent, then begin to convulse and die, typically within 24 hours. Few animals survive. Those that do survive suffer severe liver and kidney damage, causing jaundice and photosensitisation over the following week. They do not tend to fully recover, becoming chronically ill-thrifty. There is no treatment for affected animals. Usually the animal’s mouth, nose and feet will be stained green by the algae and a post mortem by a veterinarian will confirm cause of death.

Contact your Department Animal Health Officer for advice regarding the treatment of affected water supplies for stock use and for testing to identify the algae.



Footy is back this month!

Join us in our weekly tipping competition for the AFL season which begins this month.

Tips must be either emailed (cindy@rhodesvet.com.au) faxed (5231 5892) or delivered to the clinic by 5pm on the day of the first game of each round. Tips will not be accepted by telephone.

We will accept several entries from each house if more than one person wishes to participate just ensure the tips are named.

The leader board will be emailed out to participants weekly.

Please advise us ASAP is you wish to participate.

