

**December
2017**

Rhodes Vet Clinic



**Volume 7
Issue 12**

Newsletter

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F I P —Feline Infectious Peritonitis

This disease in cats usually ends in disaster. It is very difficult to diagnose and there is no treatment. It is control and prevention that is required to stop it.

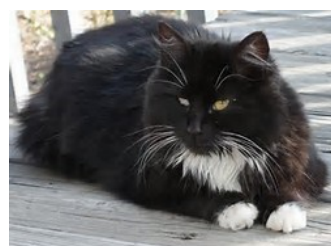
It is an interesting story on how cats get the disease.

It typically affects young kittens to two year old. The start of the problem is a corona virus infection. This usually is non fatal and causes a transient diarrhoea that goes away without treatment.

The problem occurs when corona virus mutates into a different form. This happens when a cat corona virus bumps into a dog corona virus and their virus DNA mix and create a monster. The new virus stops attacking the gut and attacks the immune system and this is what causes all the problems.

The signs are not very specific for FIP. The cat typically goes off its food and has a fluctuating temperature of 39.7 to 40.6C. Normal temp should be 38.5C. It may or may not have a fluid filled tummy area. The cat does not respond to any antibiotic.

The best way to prevent this disease is to reduce cat numbers. This requires reducing stocking rates in catteries so you do not have too many cats in close proximity as this disease spreads from backside to mouth. You should also keep young animals separate to adults.



Mike, Jess, Cindy, Kirsty, Kay, Leanne and Diane would like to wish all our valued clients and their pets a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



We thank you for your patronage and look forward to 2018



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 & 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

Hot Weather



With the onset of the hot weather heat stress has become an issue. All species experience heat stress. Short noses limit an animal's capacity for heat exchange and as such brachycephalic breeds of dogs (Pugs, Bull dogs, Boston terriers etc) and cats (eg Persian) often need to be kept inside in air-conditioned comfort. Especially active animals will often exercise to the point of collapse, so care/restraint will be needed for these individuals. Most pets will enjoy some cold tiles/concrete and a wet towel to lay on and access to a draught or fan. Frozen water bottles can be great to lay against and ice cubes in water can be fun and encourage your pet to drink. It is important to provide access to shade and cool clean water for all animals regardless of species. Please remember that if the pavement is too hot to walk on barefoot then it is too hot for paws!

Heat stress in cattle can be hugely production limiting, largely due to decreased feed intake. Cows are comfortable between 5 and 25C. Once the ambient temperature is outside of this range their bodies begin to compensate to maintain their core temperature. Cattle who are lactating or eating a large amount of roughage will generate more heat and struggle to lose heat. Thus the large framed black dairy cow who is lactating is at far higher risk of heat stroke than a yearling heifer calf. During periods of heat stress water intake may double to compensate for losses due to panting. Where temperatures are persistently over 30C the diet should contain at least 125grams salt/head/day and potassium should be at least 1.5% of the ration DM to accommodate the increased losses of body fluids.



Keep in mind that even if water is provided it needs to be cool enough that all animals will consume sufficient amounts. Smaller troughs in full sun tend to heat faster than larger vessels in the shade. Equally, exposed piping in full sun will supply water at higher temperatures than buried piping. Troughs that are large enough for all or many animals to water at once are ideal as the cows who are at the bottom of the pecking order can get a turn to have a drink. Water sprinklers can be of great use to reduce body temperature where there is a covered milking yard provided there is adequate air flow. If cows are cooled prior to entering the bail this can help increase appetite. It goes without saying that management procedures should be avoided in the heat of the day.

PLEASE NOTE:

We will be closing at 3pm on Friday, 15th December to allow the Staff to enjoy a Christmas get together. The Clinic will be closed on Saturday, 16th December but we will have an on call Vet on deck from 12 noon Saturday, 17th December for emergencies



We are very pleased to welcome Dr Peter Grieve to Rhodes Veterinary Clinic. Dr Peter will commence with us in the New Year. His interests are in both large and small animals. He, together with his girlfriend, Aimee and their Labrador, Maverick will be moving over from Western Australia after Christmas and will be living in Simpson. Welcome Peter & Aimee ... and Maverick!



We said farewell to Kim (Simpson Clinic) at the end of November. Kim is off to pursue a career in human nursing.

We wish her all the very best!